

Fears persist that dwindling Conservative majority will affect peace talks

Unionists get no deals for backing Major

By ANDREW PIERCE

SIR PATRICK MAYHEW, the Northern Ireland Secretary, yesterday told the Ulster Unionists not to expect any secret deals in return for their promise not to bring down the Government.

However, this has failed to allay fears in Dublin and at Westminster that the Unionists might be looked on more favourably by the Government in the negotiations for a settlement in Northern Ireland.

There was speculation last night that the Government would approve Unionist proposals for an elected convention in Northern Ireland. The proposals have been given a cool reception in Dublin.

Emma Nicholson's defection to the Liberal Democrats has made the support of the nine Ulster Unionist MPs crucial to the Government's survival. At the weekend they pledged not to vote with Labour in a no-confidence motion.

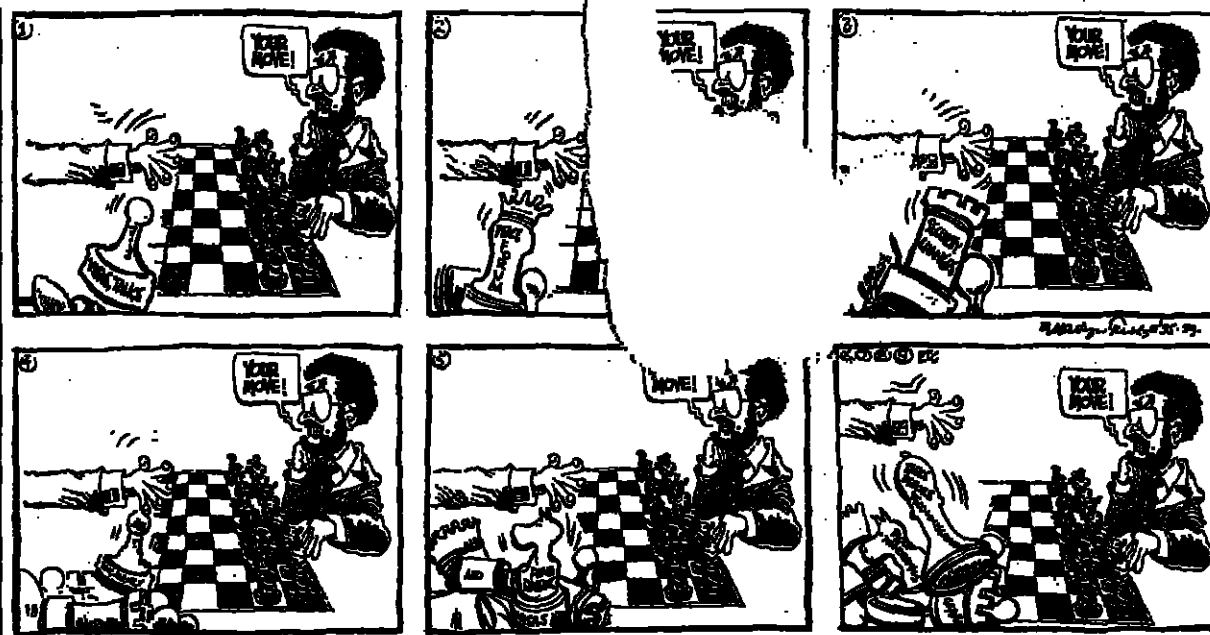
Sir Patrick, in a BBC interview, said that the Government had always listened to the Ulster Unionists, who represented the largest number of people in Northern Ireland. "But the Government will do its duty according to what it considers to be right. I recognise no difference in the essential equation by reason of events in the last few days or even a longer period."

Pressure on the Government intensified when Cardinal Cahal Daly, the leader of Ireland's Roman Catholics, said it would be "most unfortunate" if the Tories' shrinking majority at Westminster held up progress for a peaceful solution.

The Cardinal, speaking at a mass for World Peace Day in his Armagh archdiocese, said: "It may well be politically difficult for John Major to initiate significant political movement in Northern Ireland at this time, but it would



Turner and the cartoon that particularly incensed Sinn Féin. He says the party must "grow up" and learn to accept criticism in order to take part in democratic politics



Sinn Féin accuses cartoonist of 'cruelty' to Adams

By NICHOLAS WATT
IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

IRELAND'S leading cartoonist has so infuriated Sinn Féin by depicting Gerry Adams as a blood-stained defender of terrorists that the party has accused him of cruelty.

Martin Turner, who has become the first cartoonist to be named as Ireland's top political commentator, laughs off the criticism. The cartoonist, whose political sketches in the *Irish Times* influence thinking on both sides of the border, has

told Sinn Féin to "grow up".

Sinn Féin was particularly incensed by one cartoon in which Mr Adams was drawn sitting on one side of a chess board repeatedly shouting "Your Move" as America, Ireland and Britain grant him a string of concessions. Sinn Féin, which is sensitive about seeing its president drawn as a bearded fanatic, squinting behind his glasses, wrote to Mr Turner to complain after he allowed the Northern Ireland Office to print the cartoon in an information booklet. The party also accused Mr Turner of

singing out the IRA for more criticism than the loyalists.

Mr Turner, 47, an Englishman, graduated from Queen's University Belfast in 1971, and started his journalistic career in Northern Ireland editing the political magazine *Fortnight*. However, he was always determined to be a cartoonist. He says: "It's a bit strange that Sinn Féin should accuse me of being cruel to them after what they did for 25 years. It's part of the growing-up process. If they want to take part in democratic politics, they will have to get used to

commentators using what weapons we have to criticise them."

Mr Turner, who describes himself as a "non-unionist, non-nationalist, non-violent, non-entirety", has spared nobody in the past year as he lampoons politicians over the peace process. The Rev Ian Paisley's eyes roll in permanent disgust and John Major looks bemused by the difficulties.

The cartoonist has just published a collection of his work entitled *Pack Your Troubles*. Sitting in his studio at home in Co Kildare he says that most people in Northern

Ireland are sick of paramilitaries and want to get on with their lives.

"My thesis is that the majority of people in Northern Ireland don't care about politics. They are interested in jobs and secure homes. They vote along tribal lines but that does not mean they devote their entire lives to pursuing those goals," he says.

His book was "for the people who have been pursuing the peace process in their daily lives for the last 25 years (not just the last 25 minutes) by not joining in the nonsense we call the Troubles."

be most unfortunate if any plausibility were given to the suspicion the peace in Northern Ireland would be allowed to suffer because of internal political difficulties at Westminster."

However, Sir Patrick insisted that the even-handed approach of ministers to the peace process in Ulster would not be affected by the reduction

in the Government's majority.

He said: "I believe that there is a very strong public desire to see all-party talks conducted on a fair basis with everybody sitting around the table fully committed to democratic and peaceful means."

The Cardinal said he believed that John Major was committed to a peaceful solution.

need to move into inclusive political talks. I believe that prolonged failure to do so is fraught with grave risks."

Cardinal Daly added: "It is more than high time now to see negotiations under way as soon as possible so that paramilitary weapons may be decommissioned as a concomitant and as a consequence of political progress."

The Dublin Government has viewed with deepening suspicion the developments at Westminster since the defection of Miss Nicholson. One senior government source said: "There is a fear, and has been for some time, that the British Government is placing too much emphasis on the views of the Ulster Unionists. We are aware the parliamentary situation in London is a factor in the peace process. Recent developments have exacerbated that."

Political commentators in Northern Ireland, however, were baffled by the speculation that the Ulster Unionists might withdraw support for the Government unless they were given more sway over the peace process.

Paul Bew, Professor of Irish

Politics at Queen's University, Belfast, said: "The Ulster Unionists will not get any more power than they have today. There is no immediate crisis for the Government."

There is no forthcoming legislation that will cause the Ulster Unionists to withdraw their support."

Relations between the Tories and the Unionists have been strained for months. Last year the Unionists voted against the Government on fishing rights and on VAT on fuel. Labour, which is hoping to defeat the Government in the Commons on rail privatisation, will not have the support of the Ulster Unionists.

But any vote on the vexed issue of Europe could create the most difficulties for the Prime Minister. Ken Maginnis, the Unionists' security spokesman, said: "Any move to give more power to Brussels, to infringe our fishermen's rights, to undermine our sovereignty, or to introduce a single currency will be vigorously opposed." The Unionists may also oppose Lord MacKay of Clashfern's Family Law Bill, the biggest

reform of the divorce laws for 25 years.

But Mr Maginnis said: "We are not expecting any special deals from the Government. It is patronising to suggest it."

Mr Maginnis said the Ulster Unionists had not asked for any special consideration from the Government and there were no plans to meet ministers to press for any special deals. But he made clear that the Unionists were only too aware of the position they found themselves in. "We know our place. We will make the most of it. People know where we stand on the big issues."

"A narrow government majority does give us a degree of standing and awareness. But we are reliable and honest. It is worth remembering that we made clear before the 1992 general election that in the event of a hung parliament we would not seek to bring to a premature end the life of the Government, of whatever political persuasion, provided the needs of the United Kingdom, and Northern Ireland in particular, were being served. That remains our position today."



Sir Patrick Mayhew said yesterday that the defection of Emma Nicholson would not affect peace prospects, a fear expressed by Cardinal Cahal Daly. Ken Maginnis said Unionists were "not expecting any special deals"

Tory think-tank seeks end to redundancy law

By NICHOLAS WOOD, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

TORY policy advisers are to urge John Major to sweep away the framework of laws protecting workers against redundancy and unfair dismissal. They believe that employment protection legislation dating from the 1960s interferes with the free operation of the labour market, destroying jobs and holding back the economy.

The radical proposals, which will be bitterly contested by Labour, are to be published next week in a paper from *Politica*, the newest of the Conservative think-tanks, which has close links with 10 Downing Street.

Warwick Lighthfoot, the report's author and a former Treasury adviser, is expected to argue that the Prime Minister's ambition of making Britain the "enterprise centre of Europe" will be threatened unless he is prepared to mount fresh assault on red tape.

Mr Lighthfoot agrees that the steps taken in the 1980s, which ended seven employment laws aimed at eroding the power of trade unions, have yielded big gains, giving firms the most liberal labour law in the European Union. But he is understood to say that the existing "spaghetti" of rules still distorts employers' decisions, reduces productivity and raises unemployment.

He is expected to call for a new Redundancy Payments Act 1965 - which caps entitlement to a lump-sum payment - to be replaced by a system of "earn-out" payments for those who lose their jobs. He also calls for a "mammot" Employment Protection (Consolidation) Act 1973, which has 160 sections and 14 schedules, to be replaced by a single, simpler law.

Instead, employers and employees would be free to negotiate their own terms and conditions of employment and aggrieved workers would be free to sue in the ordinary courts rather than seek recourse in employment tribunals. More jobs would be created and competition between firms for staff would prevent exploitation, he believes.

Mr Lighthfoot is understood to claim that workers operating in a deregulated labour market would be in much the same position as consumers in a highly competitive high street. Just as shoppers can go elsewhere if a store is charging too much or offering substandard goods, so workers would be able to shop around for good employers.

A danger of the existing system is that the courts can interpret different and seemingly unrelated sets of regula-

tions in bizarre ways - for instance the House of Lords decision forcing the Government to extend employment protection legislation to part-time workers to avoid falling foul of an EU directive on discrimination against women. But Mr Lighthfoot will not advocate a free-for-all. Legislation protecting young workers and covering health and safety and discrimination would remain.

The vast majority of vacancies available through jobcentres do not pay a living wage for a couple with two children, according to the Manchester-based Low Pay Unit. A year-end analysis of vacancy data from all the major jobcentres in Greater Manchester shows that more than nine out of ten jobs pay less than £200 a week.

A quarter of all the jobs paid below the National Insurance threshold of £58 a week.

Times crossword open to doubles

By BRIAN GREER, CROSSWORD EDITOR

A QUARTER of a century after its inception, The Times Crossword Competition will for the first time this year contain a doubles as well as a singles championship.

Many readers do the crossword with a friend or partner and we hope that they will now be encouraged to have a go together, knowing they will be pitted against others who also prefer to work in tandem.

Aberlour, producers of *Single Highland Malt Scotch Whisky*, are sponsoring the competition and from this week onwards will also be providing the prizes for the Saturday Prize Crossword. Successful competitors at the regional finals can look forward to taking home a bottle of the malt and we expect that all competitors will have a chance to sample the product.

The basic format of the competition remains the same, with all competitors required to tackle four normal puzzles during the course of an afternoon. But this year we hope to eliminate the Eliminator, which may disappoint some who look forward to this annual tortoise, but will mean that nobody need be disappointed at an early stage.

Subject to confirmation when the first qualifying puzzle is published on Thursday, January 18, the venues for the regional finals will be: Manchester (Sunday, February 25); Edinburgh (Sunday, March 31); Bristol (Sunday, April 28); London (Saturday, May 25); Birmingham (Sunday, July 7). By moving to a large hotel ballroom for the London event, we hope to accommodate everyone who wants to take part on a single afternoon.

Crosswords, pages 18, 36

MP says fishermen face more cuts in quotas

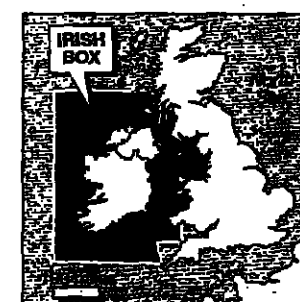
By ANDREW PIERCE

FURTHER cuts in fishing quotas were predicted by a Conservative MP yesterday as the Royal Navy patrolled the waters known as the Irish Box to prepare for the latest incursion by Spanish vessels.

HMS Lindsfarne, the fisheries protection vessel, moved into the waters as a European Union agreement took effect, giving 40 Spanish vessels access to the seas around Ireland.

David Harris, the MP for St Ives and chairman of the Tory fisheries committee, has written to the Prime Minister to call for changes to the European Union's Common Fisheries Policy, which is strongly opposed by fishermen in the South West.

Mr Harris, whose constituency includes the fishing port of Newlyn, said that admitting the Spanish boats would lead to further cuts in quotas and made a mockery of con-



servation: "The result is going to be massive over-fishing of stocks already under pressure."

He said it would be difficult to ensure that there were only 40 Spanish boats at a time in the box. The capacity for deception was vast in a huge area of sea where boats could dodge in and out. "I am highly sceptical of the ability to police. They will not be able to control it," he said. Mr Harris, who last month voted against the Government in the Commons vote on Spanish access

to the area, said the agreement was a black day for the fishing industry. He said that more control of home waters had to be handed back to EU member states, with stocks conserved through net sizes and protected areas rather than just quotas.

Tony Baldry, the Fisheries Minister, told BBC Radio 4's *The World At One* yesterday that the Spanish would not be getting any extra fish by coming into the Irish Box. "They will be policed equally fiercely on the catches that they take to make sure the fish are the proper size and are within quota, as much as ensuring that there are no more than 40 trawlers at any one time in the Irish Box," he said.

"I have no reason to think other than that the Spanish will fully comply. They have already started to do so. They have provided the names of the first 20 trawlers which are going to be in the Irish Box and the exact day they are going to be fishing."

"It will be a very strict Spanish skipper who seeks to break the rules. If he does he will be brought in and he will be fined."

Jim Portus, South West Fish Organisation, said the presence was not always a deterrent. "I don't think it will be."

A Ministry of Fisheries spokesman said yesterday that it was not clear how new fishing gear would affect the fishery. "More will be known in a few months."

Letters

Villagers fight to ground housing plan for airbase

By MICHAEL HORNSBY
COUNTRYSIDE CORRESPONDENT

PLANS for a new housing estate on a former RAF airbase in the Oxfordshire countryside are emerging as a crucial test of the Government's rural White Paper.

Oxfordshire County Council is considering a proposal to build 5,000 houses on the 1,200-acre Upper Heyford base, six miles northwest of Bicester, which was used by the US Air Force from the 1950s until 1993.

On the face of it, the scheme looks tailor-made for John Gummer, the Environment Secretary. By 2005 he wants half of all new houses to be

built on previously developed land - so-called "brownfield" sites.

But the Upper Heyford proposal has provoked huge opposition from local people who say it would destroy the rural character of the Cherwell Valley. Tony Baldry, the Fisheries Minister, whose Banbury constituency includes Upper Heyford, has called the idea crazy and unjustified.

"A settlement of 5,000 houses would be twice the size of Chipping Norton and about the same size as Kidlington and would be completely out of proportion," he said. "Our area of the county has already taken more than its fair share of new housing." It was the formerly Tory-led Cherwell Dis-

trict Council which first encouraged the idea of a large housing estate at Upper Heyford. Second thoughts set in after last May's local elections, when control passed to a loose alliance of Labour and Liberal Democrat councillors.

Patrick Burke, the council's policy planning officer, said: "We want to see the site developed, but with no more than 1,000 houses and associated commercial facilities to provide about 1,500 jobs, coupled with afforestation of the rest of the land."

Even that would be too much for Cherwell Valley Parishes, a coalition of 20 villages set up to oppose the scheme. Its secretary is Ian Lough-

Scott, who works as a surveyor at Oxford University and has lived in Upper Heyford all his life.

"A village of 300 to 500 houses is the maximum we would like to see," he said. "What is being proposed amounts to a small town. The brownfield site argument is being used to justify a development that would never normally stand a chance of getting planning permission."

The council is committed to building 47,000 new houses over the period 1991-2011 and is still looking for sites for 12,000 of them. If Upper Heyford is ruled out, they would have to be built in existing towns or on greenfield sites.



Lough-Scott: opposed "brownfield" argument

سك من الفصل

Bad-tempered and extravagant? Blame it on the genes

SCIENTISTS have identified the gene that makes some people extroverted and eager for new experiences and others stolid and introverted. This is the first wholly convincing evidence linking a normal personality trait to the specific gene responsible.

The evidence is the more convincing because it comes from two groups, working independently and using different methods. The success opens up a whole new field of psychogenetics and may make it possible to understand much of individual psychology on the basis of genetic inheritance.

The two groups, in Israel and the United States, found that the trait known as "novelty seeking" is linked with a gene responsible for making the receptor for the

■ Next time you are heavily overdrawn, blame your parents. Two groups of scientists have now linked personality traits such as extravagance to a "novelty seeking" gene, Nigel Hawkes reports

brain chemical dopamine, which is known to be involved in controlling the emotions.

That some aspects of personality run in families has not been in doubt, as children often share many of their parents' traits. But the extent to which this is the result of the genes, or of upbringing, is open to argument. Studies on identical twins show that temperament, in particular, tends to be about half determined by the genes, and half by experience. The

Israeli team, led by Dr Richard Ebstein of the Herzog Memorial Hospital in Jerusalem, set out to investigate one temperamental trait, that of novelty seeking. Those who score high on this trait tend to be impulsive, exploratory, fickle, excitable, quick-tempered and extravagant. Those who score low are reflective, rigid, loyal, stoic, slow-tempered and frugal.

In a sample of 124 unrelated Israeli volunteers, they studied both test scores and genes. They

report in *Nature Genetics* that those who scored higher in the tests are more likely to possess a particular sequence of DNA base pairs — the letters that spell out the genetic code — right next to the gene responsible for making the dopamine receptor.

The differences do not lie in the gene itself, but in the region of DNA next to it. Receptors are the "sockets" on the surface of brain cells into which the chemical messengers — in this case dopamine — fit. The supposition is that the region of DNA that differs is the part that determines the strength of the binding between the messenger and its receptor.

This is apparently determined by the number of times a short section of DNA lying on the end

of the gene is repeated. Those with a large number of repeats are more likely to be novelty-seekers than those with a small number of repeats.

The finding is confirmed in the same issue of the journal by another team, led by Dr Dean Hamer of the US National Institute of Mental Health in Bethesda, Maryland. Dr Hamer is the scientist who has previously claimed to have identified a genetic difference between homosexuals and heterosexuals, a claim that is yet to be independently confirmed.

The US team used a different personality test and measured the length of the DNA repeat sequences in 315 people. They found that about two thirds of their

sample had between two and five of the repeated regions, while a third had six to eight. These differences correlated with differences in personality scores.

The result on its own is certainly not the key to personality. Dr Hamer estimates that the genetic differences identified account for only perhaps a tenth of the inheritability of the trait — in other words, there must also be other genes involved. This is no surprise, as it has always been assumed that complex traits will be determined by several, or perhaps many, genes.

But he adds: "A similar approach might be useful for detecting genes that identify abnormal psychological processes and health risk-related behaviours

such as tobacco smoking and excess alcohol consumption."

The Israeli team reaches similar conclusions. The agreement between their results and those of the Americans is particularly impressive, they say, because the projects involved slightly different tests, a different ethnic group, and the US team showed an association within members of a family as well as between unrelated individuals.

"Given the significant heritability of many human behaviours and the rapid progress of the human genome project, it is likely that additional genes that influence normal and abnormal psychological characteristics will be found in the future," they conclude.

Daughter failed to arrive on flight

Father of missing solicitor to scour 'hippy' islands

BY CAROL MIDGLEY

THE parents of a young British solicitor missing in Thailand will today scour a remote "hippy" island in the hunt for their daughter. Stuart and Jackie Masheder flew out to the Far East after Jo, 23, failed to return home for Christmas, and said they planned to travel to the islands of Ko Phangan and Ko Samui, about 35 miles south of Bangkok, and a favourite destination for New Age travellers.

Mr Masheder, a business manager with a large chemicals company, said he had no leads to work on and was relying on hunches. Miss Masheder had been due to fly home on December 22 to celebrate Christmas at the family home at Wincle, Cheshire, before starting a job with a firm of solicitors in London. Her parents last spoke to her by telephone from Chang Mai on December 7. On December 8 Miss Masheder sent a postcard from Bangkok to a friend, but there the trail went cold.

Mr Masheder, 49, has employed local private detectives and placed newspaper and radio advertisements appealing for information about his daughter. As she wanted to tour the islands in the south of Thailand before returning home, Mr and Mrs Masheder are concentrating on that area. Speaking from his hotel on Ko Samui, Mr Masheder said Christmas had been "hellish" for the family. "I thought she might have had problems travelling around but I became really worried when she missed the plane," he said.



liveries. He added: "When you get here you certainly understand that some of the more remote parts of the country, which is where backpackers like to go, do suffer from transport problems and communications difficulties. Unfortunately the trail has been completely cold so far with no sight, no sound of her. Our emotions are like a seesaw. I have appealed through the local press for anyone who might have been travelling with Jo in the north at the beginning of December, or on

her way to Bangkok on December 8, or after that travelling south to get in touch. We know there were South Africans with her but there may have been British people too."

Miss Masheder, a law graduate from York University, was on the final leg of a solo three-month round-the-world trip when she disappeared. Her travels had already taken her to Canada, Australia, New Zealand and Fiji. Cheshire police are liaising with Interpol in the search for her.

Wendy Millard, Miss Masheder's aunt, said: "We are all sick with worry. Jo has kept in touch with us all the time she's been away, either by telephone or postcard. Her parents flew out to Thailand to look for her because they couldn't sit at home waiting for news. She's such a happy, friendly gregarious person and very, very responsible."

Police in Cheshire said Britons returning from holiday in the Far East may have crucial information about Miss Masheder's whereabouts. Inspector Bob Bates urged them to search their memories to provide even the smallest detail of her movements after December 8.

He said: "We are certain that other backpackers and holidaymakers who are returning home from Thailand will have seen this girl on their travels and could hold vital information about her whereabouts."

"It is so out of character for her to go off without a word and we are extremely concerned for her well-being."



Time and tide: Bob Smith, 72, and Mary Dowson, left, and Eleanor Atkinson, both 81, were among New Year's Day swimmers at Whitley Bay, Tyne and Wear. Mr Smith took his first annual dip in 1951 and hasn't missed one since

Eubank blames weather for blast

BY CAROL MIDGLEY

THE former world boxing champion Chris Eubank said yesterday that he accepted full responsibility for a New Year's Eve fireworks party where two women suffered severe facial burns.

Mr Eubank, 29, who staged the impromptu celebration on Brighton beach for his family and friends, spoke of his regret after being questioned by police and released on bail. The two victims, aged 29 and 38, were injured when a firework ignited others and exploded into the crowd. The explosion is said to have rattled windows in restaurants on the seaford.

Both women were being treated at the Queen Victoria Hospital, East Grinstead, for serious burns to the face, neck, hands and chest. It is not yet known whether they will suffer permanent scarring.

Mr Eubank said yesterday: "I thought I was being safe but I reckoned without the weather. After I had ignited one firework the wind blew it into a whole bunch and they went up. I take full responsibility for what happened. After all they were my fireworks."

The former world super-middleweight champion said he had gone to the local police station voluntarily and had been arrested there. No charges were made but he was bailed to return to the police station in five weeks.

Mr Eubank, who lives in nearby Hove, had been entertaining his wife and two children at a hotel in Brighton. "I'm so sorry about this. Everyone was having such a good time," he said.

A Sussex Police spokesman said that the Health and Safety Executive had been called in to investigate the incident.

Man who took on muggers is shot dead

BY ADRIAN LEE

A PASSER-BY, who tried to stop a mugging was shot dead yesterday and two of his friends were injured.

Police were hunting a gang of four or five men who escaped in a car after the killing in the St Paul's area of Bristol.

Detectives said the victim, Evon Berry, from the neighbouring Montpellier area, had been on his way home from a New Year's Eve party when he intervened. Mr Berry, 37, who was married with three daughters, was shot in the head and staggered 50 yards before collapsing outside a taxi office.

One of the two friends, who are brothers, was shot in the side and the other was pistol-whipped. They were under guard in a Bristol hospital last night. The shot man, aged 36,



Berry: was returning from party with friends

was said to be "serious but stable". The other suffered a head injury that was not serious. A witness said Mr Berry pleaded for his life before being shot at close range. The gunman suddenly turned on

the three men and fired two shots into the ground before threatening them.

The witness, who asked not to be named, said: "They backed off as soon as they saw the gun. But this guy was berserk. He fired two shots at Evon's feet and smashed the other guy in the face."

"He then turned and fired at the other two as they continued to back off. Evon just said 'Peace, peace', before he was shot."

The mugging target, a man in his 30s from the Southamptons area, was not seriously wounded and was able to give detectives information about his attackers.

The shooting happened at about 7 am as Mr Berry returned from supervising a party at the Malcolm X community centre, where he was caretaker. Mr Berry, a popular figure who was nicknamed

"Banga", saw a man being pistol whipped. The victim was surrounded by a group of four men. Mr Berry and his friends asked what was going on and were told to "mind their own business".

As he and the others continued to protest they were threatened and gunshots were fired. As they moved backwards, their hands in the air, a man ran forward and more shots rang out, police said.

Mr Berry's widow, Linda, said: "He was a lovely man who was just a big, gentle person who would not hurt anybody. We will all miss him, he was such a good father and a husband."

His sister Jasmine, 26, said: "Everyone in the area liked him. He was a loving family man who cherished his wife and children. Evon enjoyed life to the full. He had a steady job, a beautiful loving family

and many friends. This has shattered the whole community. He has never done anything wrong. He was not into drugs or anything like that," she said.

The St Paul's area is notorious for drug dealing and was the scene of riots in the 1980s. Chief Inspector Piet Bishuevel, of Avon and Somerset Police, said: "The three men were walking home after a night out on New Year's Eve. Unfortunately they became the victims when they tried to intervene in what we believe to be an attempted street robbery."

"At this stage, there is no motive for the shootings. These men may just have been in the wrong place at the wrong time."

It is thought the gang of young men, who fled with only a gold necklace, came from outside the area.

Bloodhound turns up his nose at new slippers

BY A STAFF REPORTER

A BLOODHOUND walked five miles to fetch his master's discarded old slippers from a rubbish bin, rather than bring a new pair bought as a Christmas gift.

Fetching the old burgundy slippers for Nick Harrison, 47, had been Angus's job since he joined the household more than two years ago. When a new tartan pair took their place, the family knew there might be problems, so the old pair were taken away to be thrown in a bin outside at Mr Harrison's workplace, two-and-a-half miles from home.

Unfortunately, Angus had been taken along for a walk when the dumping took place just after Christmas. When

Mr Harrison took off his shoes in front of the television, Angus ignored the new fur-lined gift bought by the company director's wife Sue, 41, and vanished. He returned an hour later and dropped the old slippers at his master's feet.

Mr Harrison, of Pudsey, near Leeds, said: "He had always brought my slippers without me asking, and I wondered where he had got to. It was amazing. We thought it was hilarious."

The route would have taken Angus over fields, across a by-pass, through a shopping centre and into an industrial estate to reach the yard of Mr Harrison's graphic reproduc-

tion company, and then back again. Because they have had problems in the past with Angus bringing in rubbish from the bin at home, the couple have often thrown things away at Mr Harrison's workplace.

Mrs Harrison, who breeds bloodhounds, said: "The dogs can sniff out a trail that is 12 hours old and Angus is always picking up scents when we take him walking."

"The new slippers had no scent to them, but the pong on the old pair must have been unbelievable to his nose. When he gets his nose down, he is oblivious to anything else until he locates what he's looking for. He has always

brought the slippers to Nick, and even used to sleep on them at night."

"He used to play with them as a puppy so he was quite attached to them."

The couple have three other bloodhounds, Emily, Ruth and Rocky, but only Angus has the habit of bringing back rubbish. "He has brought old clothes, a camera and kitchen gloves out of our bin at home, so Nick started throwing away personal items at work when he could," Mrs Harrison said.

The couple have now decided to keep the old slippers until Angus becomes accustomed to fetching the new tartan pair.



Slipper of the yard: Angus with his quarry

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Heads concede that women can also run schools

By DAVID CHARTER, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

A 125-YEAR tradition ended yesterday when the Headmasters' Conference changed its name to recognise that schools can also be run by women.

The initials HMC will be retained by the society, set up in 1869 for the heads of a select group of boys-only schools. But the amendment, to the Headmasters' and Headmistresses' Conference, reflects a sea-change in independent school education in recent years, which has seen two-thirds of the HMC's 240 schools admit girls.

The renaming was agreed by members with just one dissenting (but anonymous) vote and came as the fourth HMC school headmistress was named. Priscilla Chadwick will become principal of both Berkhamsted School and Berkhamsted School for Girls, which previously had separate head teachers. The first female HMC head was appointed three

years ago. Gwen Randall took up her post at Framlingham College near Woodbridge in Suffolk in September 1993. She has been followed by Alison Willocks at Bedales in Petersfield, Hampshire, and Helen Williams at the Royal National Institute for the Blind New College, Worcester.

Vivian Anthony, secretary of the HMC, said: "We are likely to find our schools appointing the best person for the job and there are certainly instances where, in a coeducational school, the best person could be a woman."

"The conditions of membership for HMC will remain the same even though the title has changed. We are not trying to snaffle the women from the Girls' Schools Association. It is simply recognising the fact that women are being appointed to coeducational school headships."



Lynette Mathieson, 27, with Georgia, born as midnight struck at Liverpool Women's Hospital. She wins £1,250 from a food firm as the first child of 1996

Council proposes merger to save education costs

Community split by plan for first all-age school

By JOHN O'LEARY, EDUCATION EDITOR

THE usually serene community of the Isles of Scilly is in conflict over proposals to merge the two schools on the main island, St Mary's. Councilors have decided that, with an ageing population, there are not enough children to support both a primary and a secondary school. Their solution is to set up the first all-age state school in England.

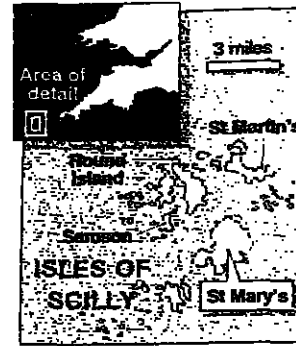
But the plan, which is still to be approved by Gillian Shephard, the Education Secretary, has opened deep divisions. One resident in ten has signed a petition opposing the merger, and there have been calls for a public inquiry amid allegations that the decision may have been based on misinformation.

Governors of the secondary school, which topped national examination league tables in 1994, have registered a statutory objection to the merger. The row has been simmering for three months, since Professor Duncan Graham,

former chief executive of the National Curriculum Council, recommended the merger to deal with rising deficits. The education authority called him in to find savings of £87,000 a year as the number of pupils fell. The islands' council is to hold a special meeting this month to reopen the debate.

Although the population of the islands has remained at just over 2,000 throughout the century, many of the new residents are retired. The primary school on St Martin's has only two pupils; that on St Agnes, eight. With 125 pupils, the one secondary school, on St Mary's, is England's smallest comprehensive. Within four years, it will be reduced to fewer than 100 pupils.

Professor Graham estimated that the authority could save £71,000 by merging the Isles of Scilly School with neighbouring Carn Gwaval primary school. But the figures, which were kept secret when councillors debated the



report in September, have been hotly disputed by opponents of the plan.

The secondary school's governors issued their own report last month, arguing that the savings would be "minimal" and the inevitable disruption would damage education. They claimed that councillors had supported the scheme in order to retain control of the schools' management.

A "diary of events" in the governors' report claims that secret talks with the primary school had been taking place

since the start of the year. A governor was said to have been "scorned and humiliated" when he tried to put the case against merger at a public meeting.

Marian Bennett, who resigned as a councillor before the furore broke, said: "There is clear evidence in this peaceful island haven of a breakdown of the democratic process, of misinformation and a total failure in the relationship between the local education authority and its schools."

Steve Watt, the council's tourism and development officer, acknowledged that the secondary school governors felt "bushwhacked", but said the scheme was the best financial and educational solution to the islands' problems. "It has developed into a schism between the primary school and the secondary school, which is a great shame."

Mrs Shephard has until the end of the school year to give her decision, but the council hopes she will make an announcement this month.

British airport chips put French fries to flight

By HARVEY ELLIOTT, AIR CORRESPONDENT

THE myth that airport restaurants and cafés in France serve better food than their British counterparts has been quashed by Egon Ronay.

While the self-appointed guru of culinary endeavours liberally peppers a new report on Heathrow's food outlets with words such as "excellent", "delicious" and "the best", the fare at Charles de Gaulle airport in Paris is "fit only for people who have damaged their palate".

Mr Ronay, it is true, had been paid by BAA, the airports operator, to compare catering standards in four of Europe's busiest airports. But he was accompanied throughout his investigation by two other people, who agreed with his findings.

"We are delighted with the result of the survey," said a BAA spokesman yesterday. "We always knew we had the best food and the widest choice at Heathrow and this has confirmed it." The Ronay results will be made available

to its European rivals, somewhat gleefully, by BAA.

They will show that some of the fare available at Schiphol (Amsterdam) was "not fit for humans" while the catering at Frankfurt was at odds with the Germans' reputation for efficiency. Mr Ronay concluded that many Heathrow caterers make better coffee, better chips and even better croissants than their continental competitors.

Schiphol is anchored at the foot of the Ronay airport league table, getting just one out of ten for the quality of its food. "It is for the food masochist," he says. "It is below criticism."

Charles de Gaulle is just ahead, with two out of ten. "The airport's catering runs completely contrary to the French reputation for food," Mr Ronay said. "I would advise people to eat before they get to the airport."

He gave Frankfurt four out of ten. "All the catering, including the food, exudes inefficiency," Heathrow was awarded six-and-a-half to seven out of ten.

Among the outrages the team's stomachs were subjected to was an "absolutely scandalous" croque monsieur and a "rather laughable" croissant in Paris; a hot dog sausage at Schiphol which tasted "like a piece of leather"; and an "inedible" matjes herring in Frankfurt.

Mr Ronay and his team centred much of their attention on the most commonly bought products with coffee and chips being given marks out of ten. Heathrow came top in both. The most highly rated chips, which were half a mark short of perfection, were at the Heathrow Burger King. The worst, at Charles de Gaulle airport's French Riviera restaurant, received zero.

The best coffee — nine out of ten — was at Heathrow's The Cranary restaurant in Terminal 3. Two outlets in Amsterdam and two in Paris both scored zero.

BA cracks secret of the flying toaster

By A STAFF REPORTER

ONE of the last great challenges of flying has been solved at last: how to make fresh toast and cappuccino at 35,000ft.

Until now, thin air has prevented even Italian airlines from persuading coffee to froth at high altitudes, while fear of fire has meant that toast had to be made on the ground and reheated in the air.

A secret technological breakthrough was launched last year by British Airways on VIP flights for the Queen and John Major. The equipment worked so well that it is being introduced on 90 planes flying long-haul routes.

First Class passengers will have their first taste of the new luxuries this week, before the scheme extends to Club World and World Traveller classes.

Passenger surveys by the airline had discovered that cappuccino coffee and fresh,

hot toast were two of the most wanted items on the airline's flights. The machines were designed by Blackpool engineering company Aerolux, and their secrets are being heavily guarded. All they will disclose is that the toaster has a cut-off device to prevent the toast burning and catching fire.

Each year, BA serves 40 million cups of coffee and 15 million pieces of toasted toast. The figures are expected to rise as the choice is widened.

The airline's manager of aircraft interiors, David Lake, said: "It is incredible that the industry has developed the world's most advanced aircraft, but just could not make a crisp piece of toast and decent Italian coffee on board until now."

"It seems so simple, but there's a feat of electronic engineering behind every cup and every slice."



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ABOVE ALL, IT'S A ROVER

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN ROME

AS ITALY took over the European Union presidency from Spain yesterday amid domestic political turmoil, there was uncertainty over whether Susanna Agnelli, the Foreign Minister, would be able to steer the EU through the critical opening stages of revising the Maastricht treaty during the next six months.

Signora Agnelli, sister of Gianni Agnelli, the Fiat magnate, became Foreign Minister a year ago at the age of 73 when Lamberto Dini took over as interim Prime Minister after the collapse of the Centre-Right coalition led by Silvio Berlusconi. At the weekend, however, Signor Dini resigned, and President Scalfaro asked parliament to decide this week whether Italy should hold elections or give Signor Dini a further term as caretaker leader. Signora Agnelli's fate therefore depends on Signor Dini's.

In his new year message, Signor Scalfaro hinted that he was against early elections, saying the interests "both of Italy and foreign countries" required at least six months' notice before a poll was held. He praised Signor Berlusconi's proposal for a government of national unity to complete Italy's electoral reforms.

However, the leaders of the Centre-Left parties want prior agreement on the reforms, including legislation on the media, which would directly affect Signor Berlusconi's control of Italian television. His opponents on the Centre Left regard his "broad coalition" as



Agnelli: loses patience with red tape and waffle



a ploy to avoid a trial later this month on bribery charges. The impasse leaves Signor Dini and Signora Agnelli holding the ring. Diplomats are alarmed, however, by the uncertainty over whether Signora Agnelli will be chairing EU ministerial meetings throughout the six-month presidency. Some go further, and are unsure whether she has the patience to manage EU affairs.

The colourful personality of Signora Agnelli, who writes an agony aunt column in the magazine Oggi, stems partly from her upbringing in the Agnelli dynasty. Her autobiography, *We Always Wore Sailor Suits*, describes a life of youthful privilege, with champagne for breakfast and wild drives with her brother on the Riviera.

She has remained untouched by Italy's corruption scandals, and, as the only woman in the Dini Cabinet, has acquired a reputation for robust impatience with red tape and waffle. She developed an almost passionate admiration for Douglas Hurd

when he was Foreign Secretary, seeing him as the archetypal Italophile English gentleman.

Some diplomats find her forceful style refreshing, but others are worried by her open dislike of long and "tedious" detailed EU discussions. Spanish officials in particular complain that Signora Agnelli paid only a flying visit to Madrid just before Christmas to "pick up the baton" of the EU presidency. Spain fears that after the achievements of the Madrid summit last month, including agreements on EU enlargement and the single currency timetable, Signor Dini and Signora Agnelli will let the EU agenda slip.

Carlos Westendorp, Spain's new Foreign Minister, said at the weekend that Italy and Spain had a shared interest in ensuring that relations between the "hard core" countries joining a single currency and those left outside it were properly regulated.

"To have a single currency with different conditions would be a catastrophe for us all," Señor Westendorp said.



General de Gaulle broadcasts to occupied France from the BBC World Service studios in London in 1941

'Voice of liberty' is silenced by costs and changing tastes

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

THE French language service of the BBC, which sustained France during the darkest hours of the Second World War, was silent yesterday for the first time in more than half a century, a victim of budget cuts and changing tastes.

Established in 1938, French broadcasts by the BBC World Service became *la voix de la liberté* to many in France and a potent symbol of resistance to Nazi occupation.

The decision to scrap the service coincided with new laws limiting the amount of British and American pop music that can be broadcast by French stations.

The BBC played a key role in stiffening French resolve during the war. On June 18, 1940, de Gaulle, speaking

from the BBC studios in London, called on the French people to stand firm against the German occupiers, and on the eve of D-Day the service broadcast the famous line by the poet Paul Verlaine, "*Les sanglots longs des violons de l'automne*" (the long sobs of autumnal violins"), a coded message that liberation was imminent.

However, with French audiences dwindling and widely dispersed, the BBC has ruled that the service is no longer economically viable. The World Service must cut costs by £6 million this year in line with Foreign Office budget restrictions. The BBC "greatly regretted the necessity of this decision", Andrew Tausig.

head of the BBC European Region, said.

French commentators yesterday paid tribute to "La Beeb". The day de Gaulle broadcast his message of hope and determination, the BBC "became part of French history", said André Gillois, a wartime broadcaster.

At midnight on Sunday, just as the BBC ceased broadcasting to the French people, a new law came into force requiring French radio stations to ensure that at least 40 per cent of all pop songs broadcast are in French. The law is aimed at nurturing the French pop industry, defending French against English and rolling back what some see as an encroaching tide of Anglo-American culture.

Many music industry analysts admit, however, that there is hardly enough good French pop music to meet the new requirements. "We are going to have to broadcast mediocre stuff," Gérard Louvin, president of the radio station Voltage FM, said.

Others point out that French pop music is less successful than the Anglo-American variety because, for the most part, it is considerably worse. Listeners anxious to escape banal French pop music still have one recourse: as one newspaper noted yesterday: "The French will still be able to hear broadcasts by the Beeb ... in English".

Leading article, page 15

Denmark tries to revive city of culture

**FROM CHRISTOPHER FOLLETT
IN COPENHAGEN**

LAUNCHED with a huge firework display, Copenhagen entered the new year as Europe's 1996 capital of culture and embarked on a campaign to revive the city and make it the hub of a dynamic new region at the mouth of the Baltic.

The 800-year-old Danish capital with its relaxed provincial charm seems affluent to tourists. However, the home of about one million people has in recent decades become more of an administrative centre: new industry has been moving out to the provinces, leaving the central and harbour areas to decay.

An exodus to the suburbs has meant falling population and decreasing tax revenue, pushing the city deep into debt when more money is needed to tackle high levels of crime and drug problems.

The capital of culture project has a one billion kroner (£115 million) budget, with 600 events planned involving more than 50,000 people. About 100 visiting projects will include displays of paintings by Picasso and Rembrandt, an Islamic exhibition, music festivals, ballet, theatre and modern dance. The Royal Danish Ballet will perform a new *Hamlet* rock ballet beside the moat of Elsinore Castle.

Greeks postpone talks on succession

FROM MALCOLM BRABANT
IN ATHENS

GREEKS celebrated the new year yesterday in Athens' Constitution Square, but the spectacular firework display was overshadowed by continuing uncertainty over Andreas Papandreu, the critically ill Prime Minister.

Optimists had expected that the end of the festive period would see George, Mr Papandreou's eldest son, as the Education Minister, walking into his father's suite in the Onassis Heart Centre and emerging later with a document announcing the Prime Minister's resignation.

However, nothing is that simple under the Byzantine and, critics say, totalitarian way in which Mr Papandreou, 76, runs his Panhellenic Socialist Movement (Pasek).

Despite claims by some doctors that the Prime Minister will never be fit enough to resume his duties, Pasok's executive bureau, has decided to postpone talks on the suc-

Miltiades Evert, the leader of the conservative New Democracy, has threatened to call a vote of no confidence against the Government on January 7 unless Pasok begins the process of resignation.

In his new year message, President Stephanopoulos sent a clear signal to Pasok to replace Mr. Panandreu.

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صحة من الأصل

Dangers facing Riyadh's rulers lie in the gap between myth and reality

Saudi Arabia is not a country, it is family business. This observation by an Arab friend is as apt today as it was a decade ago, when he had just returned from listening to King Fahd brooding on the threats that surrounded his kingdom.

Perhaps only North Korea has politics as obscure as those of Saudi Arabia. Its rulers claim authority from tradition, and its critics frequently cast it as medieval, yet Saudi Arabia is a modern creation, just seven decades old, a product of the conquests of the Nejd tribal coalition of four-fifths of the Arabian Peninsula in the 1920s, a time before oil gave the region any special importance. Britain was not happy, not least because the Saudi warriors proceeded to annex two-thirds of the British-protected state of Kuwait.

The danger facing Saudi Arabia today is that, with all the differ-



Its rulers claim their authority from tradition and critics cast it as medieval, yet Saudi Arabia is a modern creation, writes Fred Halliday

ences of time and ideology, it will go the way of its first friend, the Soviet Union. It is not so much external military threat or internal revolt but a combination of sclerosis among the aged men who rule it and the challenges of a new educated middle class that will bring the Saudi story to an end. For all its claims to Islamic rectitude, the state itself is a modern one, financed by oil, armed and guaranteed by America and deploying a contemporary form of religious intolerance to quell opponents.

Yet, while it holds a quarter of the world's oil reserves, it is not a rich,

but a middle-income country. Per capita earnings are around £3,900, employment for the educated is becoming increasingly hard to find, and there is widespread resentment about the corruption of the many princes of the royal house.

Women may be contained and coerced, but they are as aware as anyone of the gap between Saudi myth and Saudi reality, and between that reality and the outside world. Saudi concern with public opinion is clear from the efforts they put into censorship at home and abroad. With an elite that enjoys its international shopping

trips, videos, luxury cars and whisky as much as anyone, Saudi Arabia now faces a persistent challenge that no shuffles at the top, or invocations of Islamic tradition, can dispel.

For decades the country was able to use its oil wealth to insulate itself from outside challenges: its neighbours on the peninsula, from Kuwait to Yemen, knew what the sword on the Saudi flag portended, while the Saudi rulers, strong in their verbal support for the Islamic cause in Palestine, were careful to keep out of involvement in the five Arab-Israeli wars. The oil boom of the early 1970s appeared to justify reliance on "oil power", but events after 1973, when the oil price was quadrupled, have shown the limits of such power.

In 1977, Anwar Sadat, the late Egyptian leader, broke Arab ranks and sought a direct peace with Israel. In 1979 the Saudis woke up

to find in Iran a new, more militant Islamic rival across the waters of the Gulf. Saudi influence in Washington, the cornerstone of its foreign policy, was weakened in the 1980s and, from 1982, the price of oil began its long decline.

All this appeared to change when Saddam Hussein invaded Kuwait in August 1990. But the victory over Iraq, while a welcome respite for the Saudi family, brought its own problems: costs of up to \$70 billion (£45 billion), renewed conflict with populous Yemen, pressure from Washington to normalise relations with Israel, and a growing nationalist and Islamist opposition within the country itself. Many in the Saudi elite now argue that Kuwait is not worth defending, and that they should make their peace with Saddam. Fahd's creation of a consultative council did little to

assuage critics. Perhaps the greatest political asset the monarch retains is the negative example of what has occurred all around, in Iran, Iraq and the Horn of Africa.

As with the Soviet bureaucracy, there are signs among the Saudi rulers of divided opinion, and the long period of uncertainty associated with Fahd's recent years has compounded these divisions. Crown Prince Abdullah, nominated to rule on an interim basis, is believed to be more nationalist and less pro-American than the "Sudairi Seven", the seven sons of King Ibn Saud's favourite wife Sudairi. He is also known to have good relations with the regime in Syria, and may well feel strengthened by the rift that has opened up between Tehran and Damascus over Israel. But he is unlikely, given the collective pressures to which he, too, is subject, to take bold initiatives. The problem of change is

compounded by the variety of opposition opinion within the country. The Shi'as of the Eastern Province appear for the moment to have been won over by concessions from the ruling family. The liberal, somewhat more secular, middle class wants gradual opening up, but not if this means civil war or Islamist rule.

The Islamists appear to want a replacement of the Saudi family as a whole. There is also much sinister rhetoric in their proclamations. The family is not about to go out of operation; the business, however, may be in considerable trouble.

□ Fred Halliday is Professor of International Relations at the London School of Economics. He is the author of *Islam and the Myth of Confrontation* to be published on January 16 (L.B. Tauris, £12.95)

Secretive family holds the key to Arabia's stability

By MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

THE House of Saud is the richest, most extensive and most secretive ruling dynasty in the world. On it depends the stability of Arabia and the Gulf, the security of the world's oil reserves and the custody of the two Islamic holy cities that are sacred to more than a billion Muslims all over the world.

The royal descendants of Abdul Aziz Ibn Saud, the puritan warrior from central Arabia who united the peninsula 70 years ago, number in their thousands. All the top jobs in the kingdom are controlled by the ageing sons of the revered monarch, or his grandsons. Although King Fahd bin Abdul Aziz recently announced the appointment of technocrats in the most thorough Government shake-up for 20 years, the levers of power — the army, intelligence services, home and foreign affairs ministries — remain firmly in the family's hands.

Yesterday's announcement is the first clear confirmation that the stroke suffered by King Fahd last month was more extensive and debilitating than previously announced, and that the line of succession has been firmly

THE HOUSE OF SAUD

established and will not be allowed to become a cause of friction within the family. Although he has laid down his mandate only temporarily and has not abdicated, there is little confidence in Saudi Arabia or Western capitals that he will resume the throne.

By tribal tradition, the succession has, since the death of Ibn Saud, passed from one of his 44 sons to the next, rather than by primogeniture. But a family council has to endorse the succession. The first king, Saud, was forced to abdicate after a reign of profligacy; the throne passed in 1964 to the greatest so far of all Saudi

monarchs, King Faisal, who was the man more than any other who brought Saudi Arabia into the modern world and laid the foundations of an oil-financed welfare state.

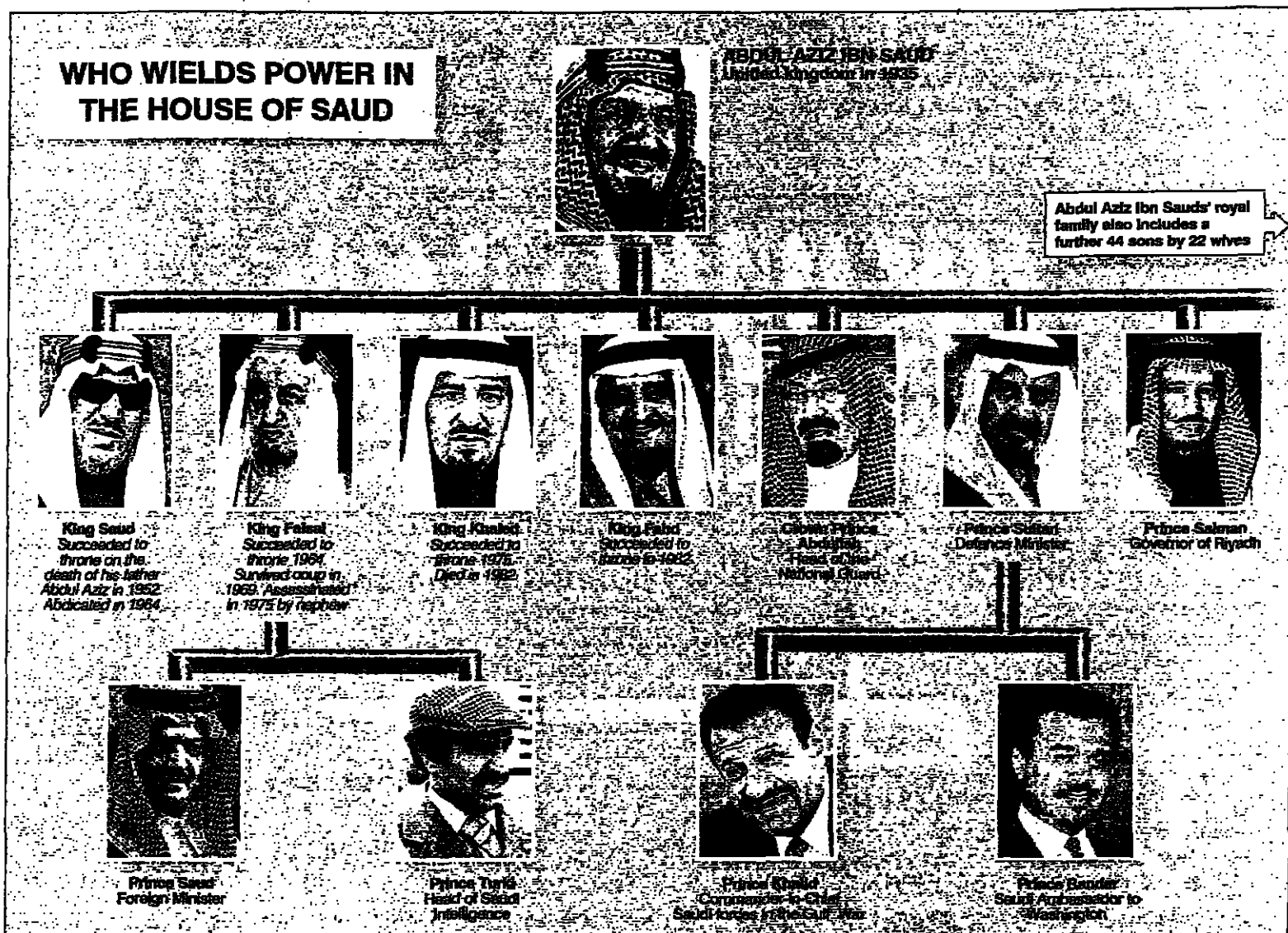
His two sons, both well educated and articulate, hold key positions in Saudi Arabia today: Prince Saud al-Faisal is the Foreign Minister, and his brother Prince Turki heads the intelligence service. If the succession is ever to skip a generation, Prince Saud is the stronger contender.

After King Faisal's assassination, the throne went to King Khalid. But he was in poor health; King Fahd held the job of Prime Minister and took over on his brother's death. Two of his younger brothers hold key positions: Prince Sultan bin Abdul Aziz, next in line after Crown Prince Abdullah bin Abdul Aziz, is the Defence Minister, and Prince Salman bin Abdul Aziz is Governor of Riyadh.

Prince Sultan's two sons also hold key appointments: Prince Khalid was the commander-in-chief of Saudi forces during the Gulf war, and his brother, Prince Bandar, is Saudi Ambassador to Washington.

There has been widespread speculation over rivalries between the princes. It has been suggested that King Fahd has tried to freeze out Prince Abdullah and has more trust in Prince Sultan. But as one member of the family said: "Outside the family this is a family. They meet frequently. They do not suddenly threaten to turn the National Guard on each other."

What unites the entire ruling family is the Wahhabi brand of fundamentalist Islam: King Fahd has claimed himself the "Custodian of the Two Holy Cities" and it is this title that is paramount. Religion is strictly controlled and enforced, with restrictions on Christian wor-



Crown Prince Abdullah leading the Saudi team at a Gulf Arab Co-operation Council summit in Oman last month

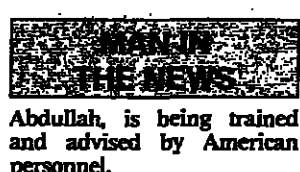
Prince intolerant of dissent

By MICHAEL BINYON

PRINCE ABDULLAH, at 71 two years younger than King Fahd bin Abdul Aziz, is likely to be less overtly pro-Western than his brother. He is closer to the Islamic establishment in Saudi Arabia and more critical of the West, Israel and Western interests in the Middle East.

This is unlikely to lead to any changes in Saudi foreign policy, which is governed by caution, discretion, pragmatism and a preference for quiet diplomacy rather than public pronouncements.

However, it may lead to a slight distancing from Saudi Arabia's close involvement with America, even though the 77,000-strong National Guard, fiercely loyal to Prince



Abdullah, is being trained and advised by American personnel. Prince Abdullah has a reputation for greater personal probity than his younger brother Sultan. He is also intolerant of dissent, and may make greater use of the Guard to round up dissidents, crack down on pro-Iranian fundamentalists and uphold religious strictures which are already zealously enforced by the Mutawaa religious police.

His most difficult task will be to bring the economy back into balance. The 1996 budget, published yesterday, will maintain a spending freeze while the world's largest oil

exporter tackles economic hardships caused by a drop in world oil prices and the huge costs of the 1991 Gulf War. The new 150 billion riyal (£25.9 billion) budget is forecasting an 18.5 billion riyal deficit in 1996, compared to a forecast 15 billion riyal shortfall in 1995. The budget was published after discussion by the Cabinet during its weekly session.

Prince Abdullah will remain as secluded and secretive as his brothers, handicapped by a stutter and a reserved manner. He has a strong rapport with the Bedouin, however, and is likely to be more energetic in restoring self-confidence to the kingdom which has clearly been unsettled by recent internal and external challenges.

Algerian President promotes diplomat to Prime Minister

FROM REUTER IN PARIS

PRESIDENT ZEROUAL of Algeria has appointed a skillful negotiator, Ahmed Ouyahia, as Prime Minister to replace Mokdad Sifi, who becomes a state minister.

Mr Ouyahia, a 43-year-old career diplomat, was the President's head of Cabinet from early 1994 after Mr Zeroual was appointed as head of state, a position he consolidated in Algeria's first multi-candidate presidential election on November 16.

The new Prime Minister won a reputation as a skillful negotiator when he brokered a 1993 peace accord that ended warfare in neighbouring Mali between its Government and Tuareg guerrillas seeking more autonomy.

Mr Ouyahia took over on Sunday evening after an official ceremony in the governmental headquarters. The new Prime Minister also held talks with his predecessor.

Political sources said Mr Zeroual had earlier entrusted Mr Ouyahia with carrying out several rounds of dialogue with opposition parties, which had given him experience of Algeria's complicated political arena and the aspirations of Muslim fundamentalists.

It was Mr Ouyahia who last July briefed local journalists on failed negotiations between jailed leaders of the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS)

and the presidency, which were held to try to end four years of violence in which an estimated 50,000 people have died.

The departing Prime Minister was among the rare holders of that office to win recognition even from opposition parties for his Government's performance in reshaping a crippled economy and holding the country's first multi-candidate presidential election. The poll attracted a huge turnout despite Muslim guerrilla threats to kill voters.

Diplomats and analysts said they believed that Mr Ouyahia's appointment was aimed at underlining Mr Zeroual's commitment to hold parliamentary elections in the next six months and to continue talks with the opposition, including the jailed FIS leaders.

Mr Zeroual had promised to encourage young people to take part in political life, including top positions. Mr Ouyahia was widely expected to carry on Mr Zeroual's programme of economic reforms and reshaping Algeria's institutions through multiparty elections.

Under Algeria's constitution, the President holds huge powers, leaving the Prime Minister with a largely executive and management role to carry out his policy.

Mixed signals as Israel and Syria prepare for new talks

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

ISRAELI and Syrian negotiators resume talks on a secluded estate near Washington tomorrow amid conflicting reports on what they achieved last week.

Simon Peres, Israel's Prime Minister, told his Cabinet there had been "understandings reached with the Syrian representatives on a number of issues", but Ehud Barak, the Foreign Minister, offered a meeting of Israeli settlers on the Golan Heights a more guarded assessment. He said

the two sides "had yet to begin to talk about substance and it would take more time to know whether there is a partner to negotiate with".

Walid Mualem, the Syrian Ambassador to Washington who heads his country's negotiating team, said the atmosphere was better and the three-day talks more serious than the previous negotiations that collapsed six months ago, but "no final understanding was reached on any of the subjects discussed".

The two sides had "discussed with clarity and seriousness a number of issues, but the matters are still not settled... The talks were useful, but they are still exploratory."

The Clinton Administration has convened the talks at the Wye Plantation, a conference centre on Maryland's eastern shore, an hour's drive from Washington, in the hope that the informal atmosphere will lubricate the stalled negotiations between two of the

Middle East's most implacable foes.

An Israeli-Syrian accord is the key to a comprehensive Middle East peace settlement, but the two nations have been unable to agree terms for an Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights.

Iran has meanwhile attacked Syria, its main Arab ally, for seeking peace with Israel. Over the weekend Ali Akbar Velayati, Iran's Foreign Minister, accused Syria of "humiliating itself", and

Hassan Habibi, Iran's Vice-President, is said to have cancelled a trip to Syria.

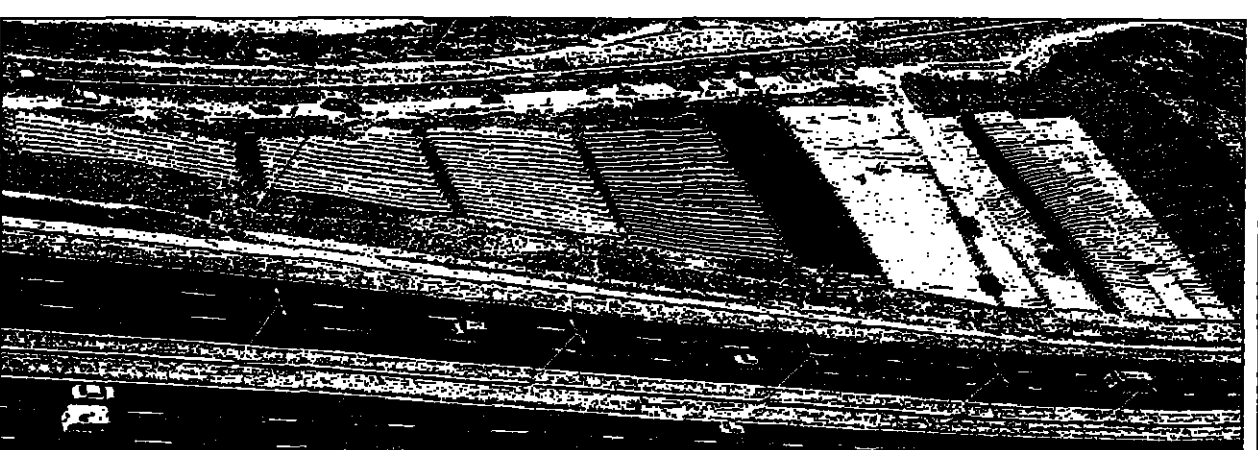
Iran also said yesterday that it would protest to the United Nations and the World Court if the US Congress approved a \$20 million (£13 million) covert action fund being sought by Newt Gingrich, the House Speaker, to destabilise the Tehran Government.

In June the United States imposed a trade and investment embargo on Iran, and Mr Gingrich has urged Presi-

dent Clinton to approve the covert action programme, even though the CIA is unsure how to spend the money.

□ Cairo Islamic militants put President Mubarak of Egypt at the top of their hit-list for 1996.

The Gamaa al-Islamiya said it had killed two policemen, including a lieutenant-colonel, and a passer-by "just hours before the end of 1995" and its priority for the new year was "to liquidate" the Egyptian leader. (AFP)



AN AERIAL view of 18,740 chairs placed next to the Tel Aviv-Haifa motorway yesterday to represent the number of people killed in traffic accidents in Israel since 1948 (Bill Hutman writes). The figure is more than the number of Israelis killed in military conflicts. Yesterday

Campaigning for safety

a one-day campaign was held in the country to reduce the number of road accident casualties. "The fact is that the major cause of accidents in this country is bad driving," Moshe Shahal, the

Internal Security Minister, said at a press conference to launch the campaign. Patrol cars were out in force aided by helicopters on the lookout for reckless drivers. One police district reported that

it had run out of traffic tickets because so many were issued. The campaign appeared to have worked. Only 13 road accidents were reported in Israel yesterday compared with more than 80 on an average day in the country, which has a population of nearly five million.

EU chides Arafat for flouting electoral laws

FROM ROSS DUNN IN JERUSALEM

EUROPEAN monitors yesterday criticised Yasser Arafat for bypassing election laws, including shortening the campaign for the Palestinian elections.

Carl Lidbom, the head of European Union's Electoral Unit, issued a statement expressing concerns about developments affecting the elections due later this month. He highlighted the decision of the Palestinian Authority to shorten the campaign period from 22 to 14 days, "without explanation".

He said it was a matter of regret that Mahmud Abbas, the chairman of the Palestinian Central Election Commission, had not seen fit to discuss such matters with the EU

election monitors. Mr Lidbom said he would have raised the question of why Mr Arafat, the chairman of both the Palestinian Authority and the Palestine Liberation Organisation, was allowed to issue presidential decrees affecting the elections, including increasing the number of seats in the Legislative Assembly.

The events of the past few days have created confusion and uncertainty, and give the impression of the arbitrary use of power to redesign the electoral architecture," he said. "The European Electoral Unit believes that the series of improvisations and irregularities should now cease if the elections are to retain any credibility."

Sarajevo resounds with gunfire and explosions as Bosnia celebrates peace at start of year

Peking calls for new co-operation over Hong Kong

BY OUR FOREIGN STAFF

CHINA'S top official handling Hong Kong affairs hailed 1995 with a call for a new dawn in Sino-British ties in the 18 months before the handover of the territory.

This year would be the most important in the transition to the return of Hong Kong to Chinese sovereignty on July 1, 1997, Lu Ping, the director of China's Hong Kong and Macau Affairs Office, said.

"I am looking forward to a new dawn appearing in Sino-British co-operation on the issue of Hong Kong," Mr Lu said. He repeated criticism of

Britain for "creating many obstacles to the stable transition of Hong Kong and smooth transfer of power". A visit to Peking next week by Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, would see new progress, with the issue of Hong Kong expected to top the agenda, Mr Lu said.

President Jiang Zemin dominated the Chinese front pages on New Year's Day, in a clear reminder that he starts 1996 as the designated successor to Deng Xiaoping.

About 3,000 Chinese climbed a section of the Great

Wall outside Peking as part of a campaign to promote outdoor sports and physical fitness. The organisers, including the Chinese Mountaineering Association, had hoped to attract 10,000 climbers.

In Sarajevo the new year was greeted with heavy bursts of machinegun fire, tracers and explosions, but for the first time since the spring of 1992 the shooting was in joy, not anger.

For several minutes before and after midnight, tracers and flares lit up the sky around the city to mark the start of 1996, but the shooting was aimed harmlessly into the air rather than across the frontlines. Most residents stayed indoors at private parties. Loud music echoed through deserted streets with taxis ferrying people from one celebration to another.

Nato's peacekeeping force, monitoring the recently signed peace agreement, was not pleased by the traditional outpouring of Balkan exuberance. A spokesman said that people could be harmed and said he regretted that appeals for restraint had been ignored.

Elsewhere around the world new year celebrations were marked by violence, including deaths by stray bullets and fireworks, and hundreds of accidents.

In the Philippines at least 11 people were killed and 700



Some of the 3,000 Chinese who climbed part of the Great Wall near Peking on New Year's Day in a campaign to promote sport and health

KwaZulu toll rises

FROM RAY KENNEDY IN JOHANNESBURG

A FURTHER 20 people have been murdered in KwaZulu/Natal as a year that claimed close to 1,000 victims came to an end. More than 200 have been killed since Christmas.

The latest toll came yesterday despite government pledges to step up security in the most volatile areas. This followed the massacre of 19 people on Christmas Day. They were attacked near the holiday resort of Port Shepstone by an impi of up to 600 supporters of the Zulu-based Inkatha Freedom Party of Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi.

In Johannesburg, police fired rubber bullets as new year celebrations turned into chaos. Five people were injured, three critically, as bottles, plant pots and even a settie were hurled from flats.

In a new year message President Mandela referred to the Government's proposals to privatise some state assets, including the national airline and parts of the post office, which threaten to set off intense industrial unrest and a showdown between the African National Congress and its major alliance partner, the Congress of South African Trade Unions.

South Africa laughs at itself

FROM INIGO GILMORE IN JOHANNESBURG

MILLIONS of people across South Africa are being drawn together through laughter, thanks to a new sitcom that pokes fun at the absurdity of racial prejudice.

In less than two months, *Suburban Bliss* has rocketed to the top of the television ratings, stirring passions in bars and on talk shows. The first cross-racial sitcom bravely runs the gamut of racial stereotypes from musical tastes to crime and domestic servants — and after only a handful of episodes the rainbow nation is hooked.

Viewers have been introduced to two families — the white Dwyers and black Moloi — who become neighbours in one of Johannesburg's formerly white suburbs. Fresh out of Soweto, Ike Moloi is the epitome of the upwardly mobile black who



Seputha Sebogdi as Ike, the yuppie from Soweto

has to contend with a preposterous wife. Billy and Kobi Dwyer, an Afrikaner couple, employ Mr Moloi in their furniture company. Billy's father, Hempiers, an unashamed racist, is horrified by "those people" living so close and loses control when he learns Ike has been given a 20

per cent stake in the business. The hardest-hitting lines are reserved for Hempiers Dwyer and his foil Ma Moloi, the unfappable African grandmother, who trade racial insults over the garden fence. "You bloody racist baboon," she spits when Afrikanerdom's answer to Alf Garnett calls her a "Pondo [tribal name] pygmy".

Gray Hofmeyr, 46, the creator and executive producer, says: "It is a kind of release mechanism to be able to laugh at ourselves. People have never heard this kind of thing on South African television before. After all these years, they are pleased to find it all so funny."

In one episode, the two wives simultaneously decide to employ maids: Kobi goes out of her way to impress upon her new employee that she is not racist while Ike's materialistic wife, Thando, delights in being called "madam". In the

new year's episode, Hempiers erects 40 yards of razor wire along the garden fence and sits in his yard, rifle across his lap, peering through binoculars for intruders from the Moloi's boisterous party.

Motshabi Tyelele, 27, Thando's real-life alter ego, chuckles when she reflects how the humour gets so close to the bone: she had dreamt of having a white maid during her upbringing in Soweto. "The danger of this country is racial labelling — blacks are called thieves and criminals, whites are racists and so on. The question is how do you break the walls down? I think humour can remove some of the bricks."

Alicia Luvuno, 19, a university student and self-confessed *Bliss* addict, says the show "exposes the way we relate to each other. It makes people talk because they can relate to it. We must get prejudice out of our system."

Nigeria frees aide to Abiola

Lagos Nigeria's military authorities have freed another senior aide to Chief Moshood Abiola, the detained presidential claimant, according to local newspapers. They said Ademola Adeniji-Adele held without trial for 17 months in the northern city of Kaduna, was freed last Saturday and was expected to return to his Lagos home tomorrow.

He is the third aide of Chief Abiola, the undeclared winner of the annulled 1993 presidential election, to be freed since pressure on the Government to release political detainees was stepped up last November after nine minority rights activists were hanged.

Ken Saro-Wiwa, the writer, who was one of the nine, was yesterday named man of the year by the independent Nigerian press. "Ken Saro-Wiwa single-handedly shook this nation, even in death," the *Guardian* said. "For this alone, 1995 belongs to him." (Reuters)

Indonesia hit by earthquake

Jakarta: An earthquake measuring 7.0 on the Richter scale shook Indonesia's Sulawesi island, destroying wooden houses and triggering tidal waves and aftershocks.

Officials said that the extent of damage along a remote isthmus in central Sulawesi, was unlikely to be known until today because of poor communications. There were no immediate reports of loss of life but at least 21 homes were damaged. (Reuters)

Firing squads kept busy

Peking: Firing squads drawn from the People's Armed Police were busy in the final weeks of 1995 and the situation is unlikely to change (James Pringle writes). About a third of all criminal offences are punishable by death. Observers believe that between 1,400 and 1,500 people a year are executed, and China carries out about 60 per cent of the world's legal executions.

No sex please we're Kenyan

Nairobi: President Moi of Kenya banned a family planning book published by the Girl Guides Association of America as immoral and promoting promiscuity because it talks about sex, the *Daily Nation* reported. He issued a warning about the dangers of over-population. (Reuters)

American nuclear 'swat' team emerges from the shadows

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

DETAILS are emerging about a secretive American government agency that maintains 1,000 specialists on 24-hour stand-by to respond to the threat of nuclear terrorism.

The Nuclear Emergency Search Team — Nest — keeps its own aircraft at bases outside Las Vegas and Washington DC, and can put a rapid response unit anywhere in the country within four hours.

The plainclothes "swat" teams track down nuclear devices with radiation sensors inside briefcases, and are controlled from a command post inside an ordinary mini-van. The Nest agents are linked to the White House, Pentagon, CIA, FBI and State Department over a communications network known as "Poison Promise".

In her first press interview, Ms Gordon-Hagerty recently told *The Washington Times*

Disposal experts, who train by building and dismantling their own homemade nuclear bombs, can deactivate any device by surrounding them with super-hard "containment foam" and then defusing them.

Now headed by a glamorous blonde named Lisa Gordon-Hagerty, Nest was created inside the US Energy Department in 1975 after terrorists threatened to set off a nuclear device in Boston if they did not receive a \$200,000 (£130,000) ransom.

The agency has been placed on alert 110 times and actually mobilised 30 times, although all the incidents turned out to be hoaxes.

In her first press interview, Ms Gordon-Hagerty recently told *The Washington Times*

that the staff of Nest — most of whom are civilian volunteers from the nuclear power industry — were America's "unsung heroes".

Discussing the threat of a nuclear terrorist attack, Ms Gordon-Hagerty said: "I think in terms of when, not if. With more radioactive material finding its way onto the open market since the collapse of the Soviet Union, Congress is now considering a sizeable increase in Nest's annual budget of about \$40 million.

If it all sounds like the stuff of Hollywood, it may well soon be so. *The Hollywood Reporter* said last month that a screenplay entitled *First Strike*, about a Nest agent called out of retirement to locate a stolen nuclear missile, had sold for \$200,000.



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Dole takes the lead in race for money

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

NOT one primary vote has yet been cast, but Robert Dole's grip on the Republican presidential nomination is reflected both in the opinion polls and in his seemingly effortless ability to raise money.

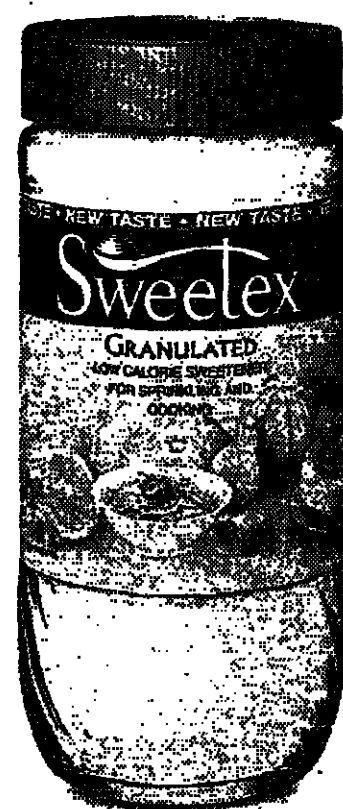
New figures show that the Senate majority leader raised \$5.7 million (£3.65 million), more than double the amount collected by his rivals. In the final quarter of 1995, Phil Gramm, the Texas senator who has described ready money as "the most reliable friend you can have in American politics", raised \$1.9 million. Lamar Alexander, the former Tennessee Governor, received \$1.5 million.

Indeed, the two men considered likely to be Mr Dole's main challengers, raised even less than Pat Buchanan, the conservative commentator who collected \$2.3 million.

No figures have been released for Steve Forbes, the publishing tycoon, since he is financing his own campaign. He is thought to have spent more than \$7 million in the past three months and has jumped into second place in the polls as a result of saturation advertising.

Mr Dole's overflowing war-chest gives him a huge advantage in a primary season that is compressed into a mere six weeks by California's unusually early contest. From the moment Iowa holds its caucus and New Hampshire conducts its primary next month, candidates will have no time left for fundraising.

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Why being good is a bad thing

Bad guy



HOCKEY 21

Best of British with an Olympic score to settle



LAW 29, 30

Patrick Stevens takes a satirical look at the legal year



SMALL BUSINESS 32

Sailing to success on a wave of naivety

TELEVISION AND RADIO
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THE TIMES

TUESDAY JANUARY 2 1996

Striker inspires thrilling comeback against former club at Anfield

Collymore returns Forest fire

Liverpool 4
Nottingham Forest 2

By KERR PIKE

THE new year was one day old when the FA Carling Premiership staged a match which, in terms of intensity and excitement, if not technical excellence, may not be bettered in 1996. A packed, vibrant Anfield witnessed great goals, great goal-keeping, embarrassing blunders and a marvellous comeback by their heroes. Liverpool converting a 2-0 deficit into a 4-2 victory with a combination of sustained attacking brilliance and considerable good fortune.

Did Anfield also witness the champions in waiting? Possibly so, probably not, although Kevin Keegan, the manager of the Premiership leaders, will



Collymore, right, runs at the Forest defence as Haaland moves in to challenge during Liverpool's victory yesterday. Photograph: Clive Brunskill

be aware that the red-shirted pursuers of Newcastle United are not housed exclusively at Old Trafford. Liverpool, champions 11 times and runners-up seven times in the past quarter of a century, are poised seven points behind and just waiting to pounce on any faltering above them.

There was, though, only one story. Stan Collymore would not have won a popularity contest among his Nottingham Forest colleagues even before his messy, messy money move from the City Ground to Liverpool in the summer. His subsequent attempts to extract a slice of the £8.5 million fee have hardly improved his stock, either. So his contribution to Forest's downfall yesterday was as predictable as it was precious. Collymore creating the two goals with which Robbie Fowler dragged Liverpool level

by half-time, scoring the third, and forcing an own goal near the death of their fourth. Forest's defending was, at times, shockingly naive, but Collymore was, in a word, unstoppable. He left the ground in smiling silence, his power and pace having already provided the most eloquent testimony to his talents. Not that Frank Clark saw it that way. "We know Stan's a good player, there has never been any doubt about that, but if you give him that sort of room, he will hurt you," the Forest manager said. "From 2-0 up, we just seemed to take a step back, and from the time Liverpool scored their first goal until half-time, we were an absolute shambles. You

can't give Liverpool goals like that, they will kill you." As Forest, who had failed to score on 15 of their previous 17 visits to Anfield, raced into a 2-0 lead inside 20 minutes, the odds on them finishing heavily beaten were astronomical. They had not managed one goal in any of their preceding ten matches here, so when Woan, at the near post, tapped in McGregor's cross after Forest had ripped Liverpool apart down the right, five minutes after Stone had added to his burgeoning reputation with a splendid strike from 20 yards, they could have been excused for thinking that the job had been done. That was the problem. Woan fluffed a simple header to make it 3-0, and Liverpool never looked back.

Perhaps for no better reason than that they had played so badly in the opening stages, Liverpool's passing began to click, and now it was Forest who had their backs to the wall. Relentlessly, Collymore and McManaman were released to stride towards Crossley's goal and, on the half-hour, Collymore's perceptive left-wing cross was headed home cleverly at the near post by Fowler.

Liverpool's young pretender had not finished yet. He volleyed a good chance straight at Crossley, who then denied him with the first of three fingertip saves. But nine minutes after his first goal, Fowler had his twentieth of the season and his seventh in four games, from the same source. Collymore's cross, this time deflected, being met with a firmer nod of the head.

Collymore was now on fire. He volleyed inches wide from 30 yards and when, in the 62nd minute, Crossley and Chedde made a pig's ear of Barnes's hopeful cross, Collymore was there to guide the ball into the empty net behind which Forest supporters, who had goaded and taunted him throughout, were left dumbstruck. For a horrible moment, it seemed as though Collymore would provoke them by celebrating at arm's length, but he wisely refrained from over-indulging.

Cooper's 87th-minute own goal, when he sliced Collymore's cross in at the near post, was symptomatic of the paranoia that Forest now felt whenever Collymore had possession. "It was a real team performance," Roy Evans, the Liverpool manager, said to the despair of expectant journalists. "Stan has been called a loner, not a team player, but, in the last three or four games, he has proved the opposite." And who said that being in a minority of one is no fun?

LIVERPOOL (3-2-2): D. James — J. Smith, S. Hendrick, P. Ballo — J. McManaman, R. Jones, M. Thomas, J. Barnes, C. McManaman — R. Fowler, S. Collymore. NOTTINGHAM FOREST (2-5-1): M. Crossley — D. Woan, C. Cooper, S. Chedde, S. Pearce — S. Stone, A. I. Haaland, C. Barnes, W. Woan, P. McGregor (sub: B. Roy, 75min) — K. Campbell. Referee: P. Alcock.

Malcolm and Fraser recalled by England

FROM ALAN LEE
CRICKET CORRESPONDENT
IN CAPE TOWN

THE shadow-boxing is over. England, having failed to master South Africa by stealth and patience, will attempt to snatch the series at the last through a more forthright method. When the final Test begins here today, with the score at 0-0, they will play five specialist bowlers, at least two of whom were privately resigned to their role being over.

Angus Fraser and Devon Malcolm are being released to fly home next weekend, two of five players deemed surplus to requirements for the one-day series, but they have an unexpected opportunity to redeem a disappointing winter today, as England finally summon the courage to follow the instincts of their management.

Four quick bowlers and one spinner is the intended attack and the slow bowler is not likely to be Richard Illingworth, but Mike Watkins, Illingworth is suffering from a strained left side and hardly bowled at practice yesterday, so Watkins is preparing to complete a full house of 17 England players used in the series.

The change of emphasis will promote Jack Russell to No 6 in the batting order, with Robin Smith the latest volunteer to grasp the hot potato at No 3. In this series alone, Mark Ramprakash, John Crawley (deprived by injury before he had even batted), Graham Thorpe and Jason Gallian have all gone in first wicket down.

Gallian's adhesive 28 in Port Elizabeth on Saturday was the highest score from the position but it has

proved insufficient to retain his place. Having arrived here less than a fortnight ago, Gallian will also return home after the match, along with the injured Crawley and Mark Ilett.

This has been an unsatisfactory series but if it must be decided in one game, there could be no finer setting than Newlands and no better atmosphere than that promised by daily capacity crowds containing, at a rough count, as many visiting supporters as descended on Barbados two winters ago and turned it into a triumphant little England.

Dozens of tour packages guarantee that almost a quarter of the 23,000 spectators expected each day will be England followers, mostly identified

by pink faces, straw hats and the presence as courier of at least one former player. There are probably enough present to put out two additional England sides but it is certain that none ever played for the purse that is on offer today.

South Africa are playing for a bonus of almost £100,000, while if England win the match, and thereby the series, they will earn £80,000, most of it through an incentive payment offered by Tedy Bitter. The manager, Raymond Illingworth, who has always been able to count the pennies, grinned cheerfully and confirmed: "There is a lot at stake. We won't be going out there thinking of not losing. We want to win it."

And win it they certainly can. The South Africans have twice failed to enforce winning positions and are looking a shade jumpy about it. England, sensing the moment, are notably confident and the statement they have made with their team selection will do no harm. "I would always like to play five bowlers," Illingworth explained, "but until now we have not been batting well enough

to justify it. In this situation, we have to back our batsmen."

Inevitably, the dependence on Michael Atherton anchoring the innings will be greater than ever. South Africa freely acknowledge the view that the early dismissal of Atherton is the key to victory. The facts that Smith is in dangerous territory and Thorpe has managed only 105 runs in the series do not inspire confidence but Atherton, having lost three out of four tosses, must this time call correctly to give England the chance to dictate the game with a substantial first innings.

Neither Malcolm nor Fraser has bowled in a first-class game since the second Test, a month ago, but the only alternative was Darren Gough, who has had a similar absence and an injury to overcome. The clue to Malcolm's return is the five-man attack. "It is very hard to play him as one of four," Illingworth said, keenly aware that while Malcolm on song can be disruptive, Malcolm off key can be an embarrassment.

The pitch, relayed only last May and still unused at first-class level, already boasts ribbons of cracks, doubtless of interest to Paul Adams and of concern to Atherton. The England captain has unhappy memories of the last Test pitch prepared by the Newlands groundsman, Andy Atkinson, in his previous job at Edgbaston. It was Atherton's first match as captain and all England required was a pitch that did not support Shane Warne. Atkinson's surface turned generously from the first day.

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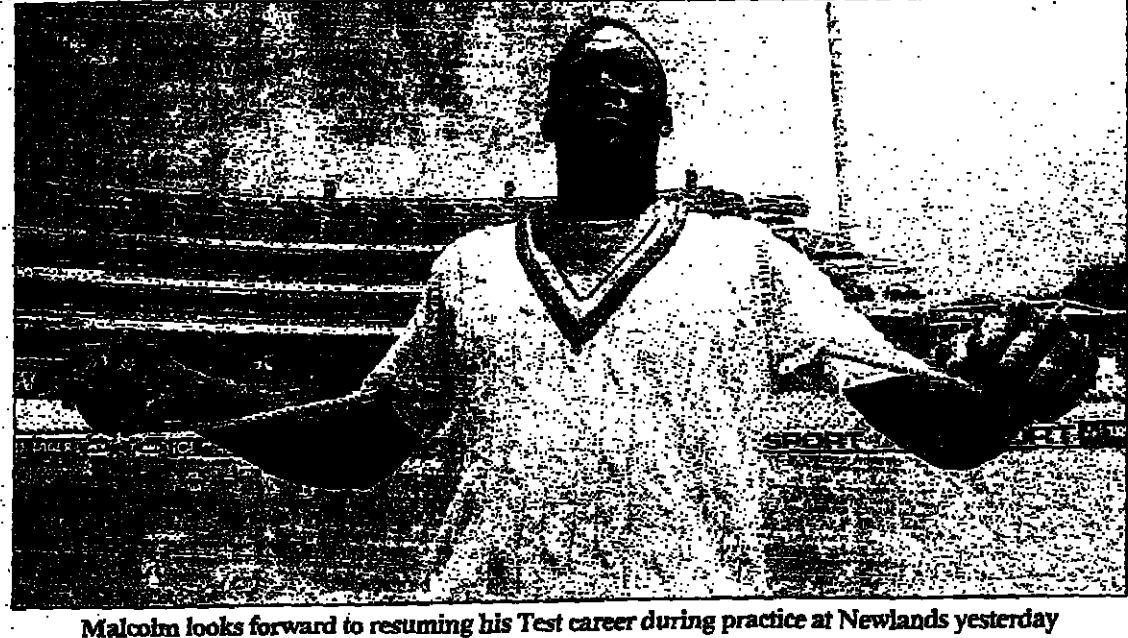
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Malcolm looks forward to resuming his Test career during practice at Newlands yesterday

John Woodcock, page 21
Stewart's role, page 21
Last ball Bevan, page 21

wcastle eag
to get back
i track to tit

Wednesday welcome Yugoslav double act

Sheffield Wednesday 4
Bolton Wanderers 2

By IVO TENNANT

DAVID PLEAT would wish to see a mid-season break introduced in the FA Cup. The current season, he argues, has had to be postponed because of what has been rather more than a cold snap. Whatever the conditions, however, the teams he puts out for Sheffield Wednesday continue to enthrall.

Their victory yesterday, in a match that no defender relished, owed much to his new signing, Darko Kovacevic. The chunky goalscorer, introduced along with his compatriot, Dejan Stefanovic, scored twice on his home debut, his goals fashioned for him by Chris Waddle.

Kovacevic has come to Hillsborough as slightly the more expensive component in a £4.5 million package. He and Stefanovic are known, inevitably, not by their surnames, but by their more digestible first names. Darko and Dejan, Yugoslavia internationals both, make for a neat pairing.

Like several of the overseas players who have been brought to England in recent months by managers lured by the absurd fees demanded of home-grown alternatives, the two of them speak little English. This is ultimately no impediment for the gifted player, as Manchester City have found with Georgios Kinkladze. Initially, though, there are bound to be some difficulties.

Most of these yesterday were in defence, where Stefanovic was played at left back. It is no exaggeration to say that Bolton should have scored three times in the first 15 minutes, in addition to having what would have been the first goal of the match disallowed for offside. Without Nicol, who has been playing for a while with a hairline fracture of a toe, Wednesday looked bereft of a sense of discipline.

Their strengths reside at the other end of the pitch. In their previous five matches, Wednesday had scored 14 goals. Waddle, for instance, pos-

sesses the nous and self-belief sadly so lacking in McGinlay's game when two decent chances fell to him in those opening minutes. From a position more central than that in which he made his name, Waddle curled and feathered his passes to anybody prepared to run off the ball for him.

His passes that led to both of Kovacevic's goals were as different as they were a delight. First, after 21 minutes, a ball lifted over Bolton's defence that Hirst centred and Kovacevic — a natural scorer, according to Des Walker — needed only to glance past Branagan. Then, just before half-time, the forward was given sufficient space by Waddle's beautifully-weighted through-pass to choose his corner of goal.

So much for Wednesday's attack. Their defence continued to give some succour to Bolton. Curcio, another Yugoslav and a lively presence allowed plenty of space in midfield, made it 2-1 with a 25-yard shot five minutes after half-time. Four minutes later, though, that impetus was wasted when Sellars bundled Sinton over too close to his own goal and Hirst scored with the ensuing penalty kick.

Bolton had no option now but to send their less combustible defenders forward — and with inevitable consequences. The ball continued to be worked from one end of the pitch to the other, rarely in a crude manner. Hirst, given no shortage of opportunity, averted a second attempted tackle by Taggart and slipped his shot past Branagan: 4-1.

Still Bolton came forward, the fog that had threatened to bring the match to an early finish enveloping their white shirts as they did so. They gained one last corner, which Sellars swung across to Taggart. The predatory central defender headed past Pressman. Bolton may well be on their way to the Endsleigh Insurance League, but at least they are going out in style.

SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY (4-3-3): K Pressman — J Nicol, P Atherton, D Walker, D Stefanovic, M De Gregorio, G Waddle, P Sinton — D Kovacevic (capt), M Bright, Zanic, G Whitham, D Hirst.

BOLTON WANDERERS (4-4-2): K Branagan — G Green, A Sinton, G Taggart, J Phillips — A Todd, S Curcio, R Sellars, S Sinton — J McGinlay (capt), F De Freitas, T. N. Bates.

Referee: P. Durrin



Stannard, the Gillingham goalkeeper, maintains a watchful eye on proceedings during the victory at Brisbane Road yesterday. Photograph: Hugh Roulledge

Stannard keeps Liverpool's best in sight

It could never happen in the Gillingham defence, at least not this season, surely? After a series of soft goals on Saturday — gaffes by Schmeichel, Prudhoe, Branagan and Wetherall were all memorable — one had only to go to Brisbane Road, where Gillingham were playing Leyton Orient yesterday, to see how the job of defending should be done. One match away from mid-term, Gillingham are on course to break Liverpool's league record, set in 1978-79, of 16 goals conceded in a season.

After 22 matches in the Endsleigh Insurance League third division, Gillingham have let in only seven goals. They have yet to concede more than one in a game, averaging a goal against every 274 minutes.

They have given away less than half as many as Swindon Town, who have the next best defensive record in the four divisions. Some achievement

for a back four and goalkeeper assembled for £15,000. Three of the five arrived on free transfers.

Gillingham nearly did not let in any goals this season. They were nearly not playing at all. In receivership last summer, they teetered on the brink of closure; but, bought by Paul Scully, a Millwall supporter, the club was saved.

Tony Pulis was appointed manager, and, in his first season, has steered the perennial strugglers towards promotion. A 21st-minute header by Leo Fortune-West took them back to the top of the division yesterday.

Fortune-West cost £5,000 from Stevenage Borough, but probably Pulis's most inspired summer signing was Jim Stannard, the Gillingham goalkeeper, a free transfer from Fulham after 13 years at Craven Cottage.

Stannard, at 1st 12lb, is the heaviest player in the league and, while he believes that his



David Powell sees Gillingham win 1-0 at Leyton Orient and so close on an impressive record

size may have put many managers off him. Pulis regards it as an asset.

"I like goalkeepers who fill the goal and Jim certainly does that," Pulis said. "But, for his size, his reaction saves us first class. He has worked and played as though he has something to prove."

Stannard, 33, said: "Fulham wanted me to take a drop in wages, 25 per cent, and, being one of the better players at the club, I did not think I deserved that."

With 15 clean sheets in the league so far, Stannard has designs on John Simpson's club record of 24 in a season. That was 32 years ago, when Gillingham conceded 30 goals, a fourth division record that was never beaten.

"Hopefully, I can keep it under 20 goals," Stannard said. "You do not expect to have 15 clean sheets in 22 games and the worst defeat we have had is 1-0. With the team we have, it can go on for quite a while. We might get beaten one or two-nil maximum."

They say in training that I look big and the goal looks small, that I put a forward off, though it is not all about size. It is about the way you work and approach the game. I do a lot of agility work. I am an experienced goalkeeper and I seem to be one step ahead of the forwards at the moment."

As is the back four. Dominic Naylor (left back) and Richard Green (right back) were free-transfer signings.

Tony Butler, a right-sided central defender, signed as an apprentice and Mark Harris, a left-sided central defender, cost £15,000. Only Green and Butler were with Gillingham last season.

Pulis believes Butler has Premiership potential and praised Green for defending the back post so well. "In the lower leagues, a lot more crosses are played into the box," Pulis said, adding that defending the back post was particularly important.

But not if Stannard can help it. At Fulham, they would sing: "He's fat, he's round, he's worth a million pounds." Perhaps not quite a million, but more than a free transfer, for sure.

Gillingham have played 4-2 for most of the season and, with Harris left-footed and Butler right-footed, Pulis attributes much of Gillingham's success to the balance in defence. Whether they can avoid injuries long enough to sustain a challenge to Liverpool's record — Ray Clemence kept 28 clean sheets that

season — may be the key; but the record for the lower divisions of 21 goals conceded in a season, shared by Southampton (1921-22) and Port Vale (1953-54) does look attainable.

Unlike Stannard, Pulis expects at least one team to put a few past Gillingham before the season ends. "We will probably get caught one day," he said. "As a manager, you are always waiting for it to come to an end, and it will come to an end."

But not if Stannard can help it. At Fulham, they would sing: "He's fat, he's round, he's worth a million pounds." Perhaps not quite a million, but more than a free transfer, for sure.

Megson talks his way into trouble

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

GARY MEGSON, the new Norwich City manager, is likely to face disciplinary action after a run-in with Jim Rushton, the referee, during the 2-1 defeat away to Derby County, the Endsleigh Insurance League first division leaders, yesterday.

Megson, who last month returned to Carrow Road as manager after he had briefly filled the role as caretaker at the end of last season, was banished from the touchline for the second half as a result of comments he made to the official from Stoke.

The Norwich manager was angry that Rushton ordered Shaun Carey from the pitch with a badly-gashed forehead when his team was already down to ten men after Spencer Prior had been carried off on a stretcher.

With Norwich then down to nine men, Derby took the lead and that sparked Megson's outburst. "I was upset with the referee and I went to see him at half-time," he said. "I had no qualms with the fact that Carey had to come off to have the wound looked at but what annoyed me was that the referee waited until we were down to ten men."

"We were hoping to nurse Carey through to half-time and sort it out then. I was upset with the referee's timing and wanted to know why he couldn't have taken the decision when we had 11 men on the field."

The referee said he would be reporting me for my comments and didn't feel it was right for me to sit in the dug-out for the second half. So I sat behind it and watched the game with the Derby supporters."

Derby won the match in the nineteenth minute with a header by Marco Gabbiadini.

Goals provide rare moments of cheer

Coventry City 1
Southampton 1

By RUSSELL KEMPSON

A new year, a new dawn? Not for Coventry City or Southampton, those perennial top-flight strugglers, judging by the erratic FA Cup Premier League fare dished up at Highfield Road yesterday. Any supporters with a delicate disposition from the night before would have left substantially the worse for wear, such was the numbing combination of bitter weather and remote prospect of either side mustering anything vaguely resembling cultured football.

A slippery, uneven surface did not help, with the ball often behaving irregularly and with few players able to nurse it under sufficient control to make significant headway. The absence through injury of Le Tissier, despite his miserable mental state of late,

also left a large void that, predictably, was never filled. Oh, for a touch of class. What remained was a messy series of lost possession, misdirected passes and a long punt forward. Although earnest endeavour was not in short supply, especially in the second half, it was more in desperation to show that at least they meant well, even if they were clearly incapable of carrying it out.

"I had a feeling it would be a draw," Ron Atkinson, the Coventry manager, said. "Southampton flood the midfield, play a stifling sort of game and hit you on the break. Against that, it's sometimes difficult to get any type of passing game going."

A goal apiece — nice goals, too — will have disguised much of the drudgery, with Whelan's 84th-minute equaliser produced from a bizarre mixture of intricate skill and good fortune. Latching on to Dublin's flick near the half-

way line, he set off on a solo run that took him past numerous flailing Southampton challenges.

Time and again, the ball should have been plucked from his grasp but, somehow, he managed to stumble on, almost drunkenly, before planting a low shot past Beasant from close range. It was Whelan's third goal in



Whelan: skill and fortune

four matches since joining Coventry from Leeds United for £2 million and adequate compensation for an earlier near miss. In the 36th minute, he had headed against a post after Bussit had nodded on Richardson's corner.

"I must have looked tremendous for the lad to run all the way through like that," Dave Merrington, the Southampton manager, said. "From our point of view, though, it was terrible that we allowed him to do it. It was silly; we let them back in the game."

The Southampton goal, in the 65th minute, was more clear-cut. Neilson crossed from close to the byline on the right and Heaney ripped in before his markers to volley crisply past Ogrizovic. It signalled a frenzied response from Coventry, culminating in Whelan's leveller, but again only illustrated the all-round lack of technique from the aggressors and defenders. Coventry booted it upfield and

Southampton belted it straight back.

Apply summing up an occasion preferably left to gather dust in the video archives. Keith Cooper, the Portney referee, blew for time a minute early. After representations from Gordon Strachan, the Coventry assistant manager, and Lew Charterley, his Southampton counterpart, Cooper agreed to resume for another uneventful two minutes.

"All I'll say is, perhaps he should get a new watch," Merrington said wryly. "It makes a change from new glasses," came the witty retort from one of the assembled reporters. It was the best moment of the afternoon.

Coventry City (4-1-5-2) S Ogrizovic — A Pickens, D Bussit, M Hall — P Williams — P Toller, Rob N Lamprey, G Hirst, Richardson, J Salako — N Whelan, D Cooper.

Southampton (4-5-1) D Beasant — A Neilson, R Hall, P Morfau, S Charlton (capt), P Berris, S. — J Dodd, J Magilton, S Verson, N Madisson, N Heaney — N Shephard.

Referee: F Cooper (Portney)

Travel headaches add to new year hangover

Nick Szczepanik finds supporters of Stockport in quiet mood on a 500-mile round trip to Brighton

Computers are not normally recognised as having senses of humour but, if they have, then the Football League's must possess an especially wicked one. How else can you explain New Year's Day fixtures that send Cardiff supporters to Preston (for a noon kick-off), Colchester devotees 280 miles to Torquay and supporters of Stockport County on a 500-mile round trip to Brighton?

This is the second successive season that Stockport supporters have had to make the long trip to the south coast at the new year, although last time the game fell on January 2. Yesterday, however, for 30 members of the Stockport Independent Supporters Club, hangovers had to be forgotten or ignored, with an 8.30am start from their favourite hostelry, the Fingerpost Hotel, and arrival for pre-match fortification at Brighton Post Office Sports and Social Club 4½ hours later.

The award-winning Stockport fanzine is called *The Tea Party*, but there was not much tea around, which was surprising as one might have expected the previous night's revelers to have seen enough alcohol to last

them at least 24 hours. One supporter had brought a "hair of the dog" just in case — a small bottle of poteen. "Purely medicinal," he said, "but it wasn't necessary. I went to bed at 3am, set the alarm, woke up, still drunk, and got on the coach."

There had been, however, one or two heavy heads. Many had not gone home at all. The Fingerpost landlord saw his last guest out at 4.30am and a lot of people did not bother going to sleep, preferring a nap on the coach — Clint Eastwood videos and a rowdy card school notwithstanding. One younger traveller never made it, being violently travel sick even before he got on, presumably at the very idea of the journey.

Wouldn't regional football be an answer? "Oh, no," was the reply. "We love travelling, seeing new places — but not New Year's Day, when you can't see properly anyway."

"The computer sends us a long way,

but it never puts us in the first division," another said. "Luckily, the team travels quite well."

What I took to be a large family group turned out to be a regular, game-going group of friends. "There are fewer today because of the date and the time," I was told. "But we are part of a group of 50 or so who more or less know each other."

Some travel to places like the Isle of Man for pre-season tournaments. Do people call them mad? "Oh, yeah," (a chorus). "My dad," added Denise, whose daughter, Katy, nevertheless represents a second generation of travelling supporters and who has benefited from the more educational aspects of visits to cities like York and Oxford.

Their stories of other away trips were full of good humour — like the game when only nine Stockport players made a kick-off at Bury — and

spoke of a much improved atmosphere between rival supporters, with some exceptions. And yet these loyal supporters follow a club which might be excluded by those chairmen who seek to put their clubs' ambitions before the interests of the second and third divisions — a sobering thought.

A pity then, that the game was not up to much. Over-enjoyment of Post Office hospitality meant that we arrived at the ground just in time to see Stockport go a goal down. Brighton followers have a reputation for being quiet, but the visitors managed to match them for 12 or so minutes until an equaliser arrived. Even then, for the most part, there was a nervous silence.

Some comparatively fortunate supporters were based in Brighton itself. "It was a struggle to get up even then," said one. The game, like some of the spectators, barely roused itself but at least they had an excuse. As the referee played injury time, someone shouted: "Come on, we've got a coach to catch."

"So, was it worth it?" I asked a grim-faced man as the whistle blew. "It always is."

Hibernian ease painful memory

Hibernian 2
Heart of Midlothian 1

By KEVIN MCCARRA

JUST before kick-off, a Hibernian supporter said: "I'm only staying till it gets to three" — attempting to use mordant humour to ward off any repetition of the 7-0 defeat his team had suffered against Rangers on Saturday. In the opening stages of this Edinburgh derby, though, it appeared that the rate at which Hibernian concede goals was only gathering pace.

Heart of Midlothian had the lead within seven minutes and the home side looked then as if their own ability had sunk beneath layers of self-doubt.

Accordingly, those who cling to the belief that there is logic and even justice, in football would have taken deep satisfaction from the way the game subsequently developed. Yesterday at least, skill was to prove conclusive.

Despite the appearance of the score at Ibrox, Hibernian do possess a reasonable amount of the quality. It can be detected in the third-placed Bell's Scottish League premier division position they still hold, despite losing six of their last eight matches before this victory. Hearts, on the other hand, have made progress, after last season's difficulties, just to separate themselves from the relegation zone.

The experiences of their left back, Neil Pointon, encapsulated the whole afternoon. The veteran, a £30,000 signing from Oldham Athletic, claimed his first match for the club in his derby debut. Gradually, however, he was to be revealed as a weakness and Hibernian began to pour resources down his flank.

Yet Hearts, while the going was good, might have left their rivals with an insurmountable deficit. After taking Johnston's cross, Pointon had driven a raking shot across Leighton to

score. Then, for a time, they found it relatively easy to fashion chances, only for the clearest opportunities to be missed by Eskilsson. The Swede is big, strong and eager to involve himself in the hurly-burly, but his touch is unreliable. When, after 20 minutes, Robertson held off Hunter and squared to him, his mis-hit shot trundled wide.

Eventually, Hibernian, having survived such scares, began to prosper. In the 28th minute, Pointon could not stop McAllister from reaching the byline and lifting a cross to the near post for Michael O'Neill to mark his return from suspension by heading past Rousset.

The winning goal was to be provided by another man much missed by Hibernian in recent weeks. Injury had kept Kevin Harper from starting any of the previous seven games for the club, yet the teenager's vivacity proved unimpaired. Four minutes from the interval, Pointon fouled McAllister and Miller slipped the free kick to Jackson. His angled ball was nudged back across the area to be met with a searing volley from 10 yards by Harper that flew past the goalkeeper.

Rousset, however, did manager to intervene frequently in the second half, making remarkable saves from, in particular, McGinlay, Jackson and McAllister as Hibernian's control of the play increased. His athleticism largely prevented the Easter Road side from repairing the goal difference that was so badly damaged on Saturday. Victory over Hearts, all the same, will, as always, prove wholly acceptable.

HIBERNIAN (4-2-3): J Leighton — P McGinlay, G Hunter, S Tweed, J Johnston, K McAllister, A Miller, D Jackson, M O'Neill — P Wright, K Harper (capt), G Evans, Somen.

HEART OF MIDLOTHIAN (4-3-3): G Rousset — A McManus, P Bruno, P Rennie, N Forster (capt), A Lennartson, Iley — G Mackay (capt), P Smith, D. J. Miller, S. Fulton, A. Johnston, H. Edmondson (capt), J. Robertson, S. C. Campbell, S. J. Robertson.

Referee: W. Christie.

مركزنا الأصلي

Crockett is inspiration for Colts' play-off win

By Our Sports Staff

ZACK CROCKETT, the stand-in running back, was the surprise package as Indianapolis Colts beat San Diego Chargers, the defending American Football Conference (AFC) champions, 35-20 in the AFC wild-card game on Sunday night.

Crockett, coming on after Marshall Faulk went off with a bruised knee in the opening period, ran for two touchdowns and 147 yards on 13 carries, setting a Colts post-season record — after a regular season in which he had just one carry and gained no yards. Crockett scored on runs of 33 and 66 yards.

The second touchdown, in the fourth quarter, set a Colts franchise post-season record and was the longest-rushing play by the Colts since Tom Matte's 58-yarder in the 1969 Super Bowl against New York Jets. Crockett, from Florida State, gave the Colts control of a see-saw game and stunned

Results

the crowd at Jack Murphy Stadium with his 66-yard touchdown run with 11min 28sec remaining. Chargers end Leslie O'Neal overran the delay play and Crockett chugged up the middle of the field, picking up a block from Lamont Warren to give the Colts a 28-20 lead.

For his first touchdown run, Crockett made a shambles of a defence noted for its play against the run, going untouched for 33 yards to give the Colts a 14-10 lead with 11min 45sec remaining of the second quarter.

"Zack was unbelievable," Jim Harbaugh, the Colts quarterback who threw for two touchdowns in the match, said. "It was crazy the way he was running out there. That one 66-yarder was a beautiful thing. You've got to give some credit to our offensive line."

The Colts' first play-off victory in 24 years ended a run of

five play-off game defeats and earned them a trip to Kansas City on Sunday. Ted Marchibroda, the Colts coach, said: "After the game was over, I told the guys that we were one of eight teams left and we have two more steps to get to the top of the mountain."

The two teams met on the penultimate weekend of the regular season, a game won by San Diego. The Colts employed a zone defense this time after their man-for-man system proved their undoing in the previous meeting. The tactic paid off and Jason Bensen, the Colts' safety, said: "Our defensive package was just so good. We looked at the film and made the changes."

Earlier, Brett Favre threw for 199 yards and three touchdowns, with Edgar Bennett running for a Green Bay play-off record, as the Packers beat Atlanta Falcons 37-20 in the National Football Conference (NFC) wild-card game.

Favre, who spent his rookie season in Atlanta before being traded to Green Bay in 1992, rallied the Packers to a 27-10 half-time lead after Jeff George gave Atlanta an early lead with a 65-yard touchdown pass to Eric Metcalf.

Favre, who threw an NFL-best 38 touchdowns this year and was named the NFL offensive player of the year, picked apart Atlanta's defence, which yielded an NFL-record 4.751 passing yards, but he had plenty of help. Amid fog and snow flurries in the first half, he completed passes to nine different receivers.

Bennett, Green Bay's first 1,000-yard rusher, rushed 108 yards on 24 carries, improving by three yards the Packers record shared by Jim Taylor and Paul Hornung. The Packers will face the 49ers, the reigning Super Bowl champions, on Saturday in San Francisco.

PLAY-OFF SCHEDULE: Divisional play-offs: January 6; Pittsburgh vs Buffalo, San Francisco vs Green Bay, January 7; Dallas vs Philadelphia, Kansas City vs Indianapolis, January 14; Conference championships: January 28; Super Bowl XXXI, February 4.



Lane's delight is evident after his lucrative victory in the world championship of golf in Scottsdale, Arizona

Lane reserves his best for last hole

By Our Sports Staff

BARRY LANE enjoyed the biggest payday of his career when he beat David Frost in the final of the Andersen Consulting world championship of golf in Scottsdale, Arizona. His two-up victory earned him £660,000.

Lane, from Berkshire, took a three-hole lead after 25 holes of the 36-hole final of the match-play event, which carried total prize-money of £2.4 million. But Frost, of South Africa, clawed back to level the match seven holes later. Lane regained the lead with a birdie at the par-four 33rd and sealed victory with a birdie on the last.

The Englishman shot a five-under-par 67 on the first 18 holes of the final, compared with Frost's 71, but was only

one up. Lane was credited with an eagle three on the 562-yard 9th after Frost had a bogey and conceded a 15-foot putt.

Another bogey from Frost put Lane two up after 20 holes but Lane missed a four-footer for a birdie on the 21st and, with it, a chance to go three up. The next four holes were halved before Lane finally got to three up when Frost had a bogey at the 25th.

Lane's second shot at the 27th landed in a bunker, and his first attempt from the sand stayed in. Frost made a spectacular chip to save par and Lane's bogey six

It was the first of three straight holes in which Lane hit a bunker and found himself putting for par while Frost putted for birdie. Frost parred all three holes, while Lane had to sink an eight-footer to

save par on the 29th hole to remain one up. Frost then drew level with a birdie on the 31st hole. Lane regained the lead with a six-foot birdie putt at the 33rd and holed from nine feet on the last green to seal victory.

Frost earned £330,000 as the runner-up, while Lane's prize was some consolation for his failure to gain a place in the Europe Ryder Cup team which regained the trophy from the United States in September.

In the 18-hole match for third place, Mark McCumber, of the United States, won three consecutive holes early on the back nine and beat Masahiro Kuramoto, of Japan, 4 and 3. McCumber earned £230,000 and Kuramoto, whom Lane had defeated two up in the semi-finals, £200,000.

Challenge gets greater as national event goes global

Mel Webb salutes the remarkable success of a three-year-old corporate golf tournament

In the short history of *The Times* MeesPierson Corporate Golf Challenge, winning the national title has been enough to keep even the most ambitious of golfing businesses happy. From this year, however, the prize is to become immeasurably greater as the concept of competitive corporate golf goes worldwide.

The World Corporate Golf Challenge, launched this week, is to expand the horizons of the phenomenally successful pioneer competition that has grown so dramatically during its three-year existence.

Last year, the Challenge in the British Isles attracted nearly 800 company registrations and almost 50,000 players, which makes it one of the world's leading golf events. It was the first golf competition to be aimed specifically at the business community when it was launched in 1993; it remains unchallengeably the best.

Imagine, then, the response that is likely in the United States, where an agreement has recently been completed to stage its first Corporate Challenge this year. The winners of that event will play in their national final at the PGA National at West Palm Beach, Florida.

The United States Challenge will be staged by a joint venture partnership, the British arm of which is a company that has been established by Mitchell Ellingham Associates (MEA). MEA is the parent company of Mitchell Marketing Associates (MMA), the firm which conceived the event in the British Isles and which continues to run it on behalf of *The Times* and MeesPierson, the Dutch-owned merchant bank.

The Challenge has also been taken to Jamaica and Holland, where the versatility of the competition has been clearly demonstrated. In Jamaica, still an emerging country, the field of corporate golf, the event has been considerably smaller, open to entry by

subscription but no less successful, while in Holland the template of the British tournament has been adapted to suit local needs and requirements.

"It was obvious from when we started this competition that its flexibility would be the point that would make it suitable for just about any market," John Mitchell, managing director of MMA, said. "We were confident on day one that, even given major territorial difference, the concept would be capable of adaptation without losing the essence of the competition. The response we have had worldwide underlines that."

Already the event has been taken up on a licensee basis by



such diverse business cultures as those in India, South Africa, New Zealand and Australia. The one constant is the scoring system — four golfers to form the team, at least one from the host company, best two Stableford scores on each hole to count. Everything else is negotiable.

Interest in the Challenge has been expressed by many other countries, and MMA are actively engaged in a search for leading companies in sports event management and public relations to turn a unique concept into reality elsewhere.

The first world final, to be organised by MMA, will be held in February or March of 1997 at one of a host of high-quality golfing venues, yet to be announced. The winners of *The Times* MeesPierson Corporate Golf Challenge this year will be there, representing company, competition and country.

DISCOVERY DATA: MOST EXPENSIVE SUIT: SPACE SHUTTLE CREW: \$3.4 MILLION

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	Depth (cm)		Conditions		Runs to resort	Weather (5pm)	Temp °C	Last snow	
	L	U	Piste	Offp					
ANDORRA									
Soldeu	20	80	fair	heavy	cloud	-2	3	1/2	
(Mixed conditions in tricky weather; mostly good though)									
AUSTRIA									
Mayrhofen	5	40	good	varied	cloud	-2	1		1/1
(Dusting of fresh snow, all 30 lifts open)									
St Anton	20	180	good	powder	fair	fine	-1	3	1/2
(Odd rocky patch otherwise excellent skiing)									
Schladming	50	80	good	powder	good	cloud	-2	3	1/2
(Excellent skiing with new snow; all lifts and runs open)									
FRANCE									
Les Arcs	35	180	good	powder	good	fair	0	3	1/2
(Excellent skiing with new snow under sunny skies)									
Avoriaz	70	105	good	varied	lar sun		0	3	1/2
(Lots of good skiing in and around Avoriaz)									
Chamonix	30	175	good	powder	cloud	fine	3	3	1/2
(Good skiing in many areas but some rocky/stony patches)									
Tignes	95	140	good	powder	good	fine	-1	3	1/2
(Good skiing conditions; bright sunshine, new snow)									
Val d'Isère	100	180	good	powder	good	sun	2	3	1/2
(Excellent skiing; almost all lifts and runs open)									
SWITZERLAND									
C Montana	20	110	good	varied	cloud	sun	-1	1	1/1
(Generally very good piste skiing; some snow)									
Verbier	70	110	good	varied	wom	fine	2	3	1/2
(Excellent skiing above 1,200m)									

Source: Ski Club of Great Britain L - lower slopes; U - upper; art - artificial.

LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES

0171-782 7344

LEGAL APPOINTMENTS

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE

CHANCERY DIVISION

COMPANIES COURT

IN THE MATTER OF

REVENUE

INTERNATIONAL LIMITED

AND IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT 1985

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN

THAT

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THE TIMES TUESDAY JANUARY 2 1996

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The players' weekly and overall scores and their values if you are considering the transfer option

Code	Name	Team	Wk	Val	Wk	Val
10101	T Flowers	Blackburn Rovers	5.00	+4	-16	
10102	B Mims	Blackburn Rovers	1.00	0	-1	
10201	P Schmeichel	Manchester United	5.00	-1	+2	
10301	M Croxall	Nottingham Forest	2.50	+10	-14	
10302	T Wright	Nottingham Forest	1.00	0	0	
10401	D James	Liverpool	3.50	-3	+15	
10402	A Warner	Liverpool	0.25	0	0	
10501	J Lurie	Leeds United	3.00	0	-11	
10502	M Beesley	Leeds United	0.75	+1	+1	
10601	P Smick	Newcastle United	3.00	-3	0	
10602	M Hooper	Newcastle United	1.00	0	0	
10603	S Hslop	Newcastle United	3.00	0	+4	
10701	I Walker	Tottenham Hotspur	2.50	+2	+2	
10702	E Thorstvedt	Tottenham Hotspur	1.00	0	0	
10801	A Roberts	Queens Park Rangers	1.50	0	-7	
10802	S Dykstra	Queens Park Rangers	1.00	0	0	
10803	J Sommer	Queens Park Rangers	1.00	-8	-22	
10901	H Segers	Wimbledon	1.50	-2	-2	
10902	N Sullivan	Wimbledon	0.75	0	0	
10903	P Head	Wimbledon	1.50	0	-38	
11001	B Grobbelaar	Southampton	1.50	0	0	
11002	D Beasant	Southampton	0.75	+5	-12	
11101	D Kharine	Chelsea	2.50	-6	+10	
11102	K Hitchcock	Chelsea	1.00	0	0	
11201	D Seaman	Arsenal	5.00	0	+25	
11202	V Barham	Arsenal	0.50	0	0	
11301	K Pressman	Sheffield Wednesday	2.50	-1	-24	
11302	C Woods	Sheffield Wednesday	2.50	0	0	
11401	L Midosko	West Ham United	2.50	0	-15	
11402	L Sealey	West Ham United	0.50	0	0	
11501	N Southall	Everton	2.50	+10	+13	
11502	J Keaton	Everton	0.75	0	0	
11601	S Ogrizovic	Coventry City	1.50	-1	-17	
11602	J Gould	Coventry City	0.75	0	0	
11603	J Pilen	Coventry City	1.50	0	-35	
11701	A Coton	Manchester City	2.50	0	0	
11702	A Dible	Manchester City	2.50	0	0	
11703	E Imiel	Manchester City	2.00	-3	-16	
11801	M Bosnich	Aston Villa	2.50	0	+14	
11802	N Spink	Aston Villa	1.00	0	-1	
11901	A Miller	Middlesbrough	2.00	0	+3	
11902	C Walsh	Middlesbrough	0.75	-8	+7	
12001	K Branagan	Bolton Wanderers	0.50	-8	-57	
12002	A Davison	Bolton Wanderers	0.50	0	0	



Ablett found the cost of the top strikers in ITF prohibitive and thought Mark Bright and Ian Rush were better value

Seaman saves Ablett

Gary Ablett, the Everton full back, explains the selection of his ITF side

IT WAS way back in the summer when I picked "The Ninja Warriors". It was the Friday night before the FA Charity Shield and we were in a hotel. "The Ninja" is my nickname at Everton - I have not a clue why. You will have to ask Neville Southall about it: one day about three years ago he called me "The Ninja" and it stuck. They have even put a puppet over my locker.

I was looking at first for a known goalscorer, but then I saw the prices. If you wanted a Shearer, Collymore or Fowler, it was going to cost an arm and a leg and I had decided to spend equal amounts of money throughout the team.

My most expensive buy was David Seaman at £5 million. If the rules had been different I would have gone for the whole of the Arsenal back five - that way you never concede many goals. But the rules say only two from each club and I went for Seaman and so far he has earned me more points than anyone else.

In midfield my two best buys have been David Ginola and Jim Magilton. When Ginola first signed for Newcastle, Keegan said he should carry a government health warning and I thought: "That will do for me." He is a great player but has not done quite so well since we have had that little cold spell. Hopefully, he will find a rich vein of form again.

This time last season Newcastle blew up, but they show no sign of doing that again. They are a great side; they are so difficult to break down. They have got pace all round and when they break they are dangerous every time. They have had a few hiccups, but if you can keep winning when you are not playing well, you are not going to be far off winning the title.

As for Jim, I know him from playing in Liverpool reserves; we grew up together. I always knew he was a good player and

he is showing it now. Southampton have not had the best of seasons so far but there are only a few points between the teams in the middle of the table and a couple of good wins could see them climbing up the table.

It does not take much to turn it around. Tottenham are not the best side we have played this season and look where they are. It is always easier looking down on the other clubs than looking up from the bottom.

When it came to picking Joe Royle, I had no qualms there. You just have to look at his record since he came to Everton. When he arrived we had taken just eight points from 13 games and then we had two tough matches against Liverpool and Chelsea. We took six out of six points.

I think it was a shame for Mike Walker that Joe Royle inherited the same players and seemed to get more out of them. I am not sure quite why it happens, but sometimes, when a new manager comes along, everyone feels they all start off on the same footing.

The old manager has his favourites, perhaps, the same players every week and the rest feel no hope. But a new manager comes along, everyone is a fresh face to him and suddenly everyone is fighting for their place in the team again.

ABLETT'S SELECTION

Goalkeeper:	D Seaman (Arsenal)	£5m
Full backs:	D Seaman (Arsenal)	£5m
	T Phillips (Chelsea)	£1.5m
Centre backs:	J Soares (Liverpool)	£3.5m
	D Weatherall (Leeds)	£3.5m
Midfielders:	C Waddle (Sheff Wed)	£2.5m
	J Magilton (Bolton)	£2m
	D Ginola (Newcastle)	£1.5m
	D Ginola (Newcastle)	£1.5m
Strikers:	M Bright (Sheff Wed)	£2.5m
	I Rush (Liverpool)	£2m
Manager:	J Royle (Everton)	£2m

Code	Name	Team	Wk	Val	Wk	Val
20101	H Berg	Blackburn Rovers	3.50	+4	+7	
20102	G Le Saux	Blackburn Rovers	4.50	0	+3	
20103	J Kenne	Blackburn Rovers	3.50	+4	+16	
20201	D Irwin	Manchester United	4.50	+1	+12	
20202	P Parker	Manchester United	2.50	-3	+3	
20203	G Neville	Manchester United	2.50	+2	+1	
20204	P Neville	Manchester United	0.75	+5	+9	
20301	S Pearce	Nottingham Forest	4.50	+11	+16	
20302	D Lytle	Nottingham Forest	3.00	+8	+11	
20303	A Healand	Nottingham Forest	1.00	0	-9	
20401	R Jones	Liverpool	3.00	-1	+23	
20402	S Bjombye	Liverpool	3.00	0	+4	
20403	S Harkness	Liverpool	0.75	-2	+24	
20501	T Dorigo	Leeds United	3.50	+4	+8	
20502	G Kelly	Leeds United	3.00	+3	+9	
20503	N Worthington	Leeds United	1.50	0	-1	
20601	J Beresford	Newcastle United	3.00	-2	+12	
20602	M Hottiger	Newcastle United	3.00	0	0	
20603	W Barton	Newcastle United	3.00	-2	+18	
20701	D Austin	Tottenham Hotspur	2.50	+3	+7	
20702	J Edinburgh	Tottenham Hotspur	1.50	+2	-3	
20703	S Campbell	Tottenham Hotspur	1.50	+2	+19	
20704	D Kerslake	Tottenham Hotspur	1.00	0	0	
20705	C Wilson	Tottenham Hotspur	2.50	+4	+7	
20801	D Bardsley	Queens Park Rangers	2.00	-3	-4	
20802	R Brevett	Queens Park Rangers	1.50	-3	-3	
20803	N Zelic	Queens Park Rangers	2.50	0	-3	
20901	A Kimble	Wimbledon	2.50	-1	-3	
20902	G Elkins	Wimbledon	1.50	0	+8	
20903	K Cunningham	Wimbledon	1.50	-1	-12	
20904	R Joseph	Wimbledon	0.75	0	0	
21001	J Dodd	Southampton	1.50	+4	+12	
21002	F Benali	Southampton	1.00	0	+5	
21003	S Charlton	Southampton	1.00	+3	+5	
21101	S Clarke	Chelsea	1.50	-2	+5	
21102	S Minto	Chelsea	1.50	0	+3	
21103	G Hall	Chelsea	0.50	0	+9	
21104	A Myers	Chelsea	0.50	-1	+16	
21105	T Phipps	Chelsea	1.50	0	0	
21106	D Petrescu	Chelsea	2.50	+1	+15	
21201	L Dixon	Arsenal	3.00	+2	+32	
21202	N Winterburn	Arsenal	3.00	+1	+30	
21203	S Morrow	Arsenal	1.50	0	0	
21301	I Nolan	Sheffield Wednesday	2.50	0	-1	
21302	P Atherton	Sheffield Wednesday	2.50	0	+4	
21401	J Dicks	West Ham United	3.50	0	0	
21402	T Brackner	West Ham United	3.00	0	-12	
21403	K Brown	West Ham United	0.75	0	0	
21404	K Rowland	West Ham United	0.75	0	+9	
21501	G Ablett	Everton	2.50	0	+10	
21502	E Barrett	Everton	2.50	0	+4	
21503	M Jackson	Everton	1.50	0	+13	
21504	P Holmes	Everton	0.50	-2	-2	
21601	D Burrows	Coventry City	1.50	0	0	
21602	A Pickering	Coventry City	1.00	0	-6	
21603	S Morgan	Coventry City	0.75	0	0	
21604	M Hall	Coventry City	0.75	0	-19	
21702	R Edgill	Manchester City	1.50	-1	-1	
21703	D Brightwell	Manchester City	0.75	0	-1	
21704	J Foster	Manchester City	2.50	0	+22	
21801	G Charles	Aston Villa	4.50	0	+3	
21802	S Stanton	Aston Villa	2.50	0	+21	
21803	A Wright	Aston Villa	0.50	0	0	
21804	P King	Aston Villa	0.50	0	0	
21805	B Small	Aston Villa	0.50	0	0	
21901	C Blackmore	Middlesbrough	0.75	0	0	
21902	N Cox	Middlesbrough	1.00	+4	+23	
21903	C Morris	Middlesbrough	0.75	-2	-24	
21904	C Fleming	Middlesbrough	0.50	-5	-5	
22001	G Bergeson	Bolton Wanderers	0.50	-1	-16	
22002	S Green	Bolton Wanderers	0.25	-2	-13	
22003	J Phillips	Bolton Wanderers	0.75	-2	-16	
22004	A Todd	Bolton Wanderers	0.75	-1	-5	
22005	S McAnespie	Bolton Wanderers	0.50	0	+1	

Code	Name	Team	Wk	Val	Wk	Val
30705	J Cundy	Tottenham Hotspur	0.50	0	0	
30801	D Maddix	Queens Park Rangers	1.50	-1	-8	
30802	S Yates	Queens Park Rangers	1.50	-3	-5	
30803	A McDonald	Queens Park Rangers	2.00	-2	-2	
30804	K Ready	Queens Park Rangers	0.75	0	-6	
30901	A Reeves	Wimbledon	2.50	-1	-2	
30902	A Thom	Wimbledon	0.75	0	-4	
30903	S Fitzgerald	Wimbledon	0.75	0	-8	
30904	C Perry	Wimbledon	1.00	0	-16	
30905	A Pearce	Wimbledon	2.50	0	-2	
31001	K Monkou	Southampton	1.50	+4	+5	
31002	A Neilson	Southampton	1.50	0	+6	
31003	R Hall	Southampton	1.50	+4	+4	
31101	E Johnson	Chelsea	1.50	0	+14	
31102	J Kjeldberg	Chelsea	1.50	0	0	
31103	F Sinclair	Chelsea	2.00	0	+3	
31104	D Lee	Chelsea	0.75	-2	+16	
31201	T Adams	Arsenal	4.50	+4	+30	
31202	S Bould	Arsenal	3.00	0	+24	
31203	M Keown	Arsenal	1.50	-1	+20	
31204	A Linighan	Arsenal	1.50	-2	-4	
31301	D Walker	Sheffield Wednesday	2.50	0	+4	
31401	S Potts	West Ham United	2.50	0	+5	
31402	M Rieper	West Ham United	2.50	0	+3	
31403	A Martin	West Ham United	1.00	0	+21	
31404	A Whitbread	West Ham United	0.50	0	0	
31501	D Unsworth	Everton	2.50	+8	+23	
31502	D Watson	Everton	2.50	+1	+15	
31503	C Short	Everton	2.50	+10	+17	
31602	D Rennie	Coventry City	0.75	0	-7	
31603	D Busst	Coventry City	0.75	0	+9	
31604	B Borrows	Coventry City	1.50	0	-4	
31605	R Shearer	Coventry City	1.50	-1	-15	
31701	K Curle	Manchester City	1.50	-1	-1	
31702	A Kermaghan	Manchester City	1.00	0	-1	
31703	M Vork	Manchester City	1.00	0	0	
31704	K Symons	Manchester City	1.50	-1	+4	
31801	U Ehlogu	Aston Villa	2.50	0	+20	
31802	P McGrath	Aston Villa	1.50	0	+11	
31803	C Tiler	Aston Villa	0.75	0	+1	
31804	N Pearson	Middlesbrough	0.75	-3	+17	
31902	S Vickers	Middlesbrough	0.75	-3	+26	
31903	P Whelan	Middlesbrough	0.75	0	-3	
31904	D Whyte	Middlesbrough	0.75	+1	+14	
32001	A Stubbs	Bolton Wanderers	1.50	0	-1	
32002	C Fairclough	Bolton Wanderers	1.50	-3	-20	
32003	S Coleman	Bolton Wanderers	0.75	0	0	
32004	G Taggart	Bolton Wanderers	1.50	-3	-12	
32005	G Strong	Bolton Wanderers	0.50	0	0	

40401	S McManaman	Liverpool	6.50	+5+36
40402	J Redknapp	Liverpool	2.50	0+21
40403	J Barnes	Liverpool	3.00	+1+29
40404	P Stewart	Liverpool	1.50	0
40405	M Thomas	Liverpool	1.50	+1+4
40406	N Walters	Liverpool	1.50	0
40407	N Clough	Liverpool	1.50	0+2
40408	M Kennedy	Liverpool	2.00	0+1
40410	J Molloy	Liverpool	1.50	0
40411	J McAteer	Liverpool	4.00	+1+15
40501	G McAllister	Leeds United	4.00	+6+32
40502	G Speed	Leeds United	4.00	+4+24
40503	R Wallace	Leeds United	2.50	0+9
40504	D White	Leeds United	1.50	0+5
40505	L Radebe	Leeds United	0.75	0
40506	M Tindler	Leeds United	0.50	0+3
40507	A Couzens	Leeds United	1.00	0+1
40601	R Ablett	Newcastle United	4.50	+1+39
40602	D Ginola	Newcastle United	4.50	+1+26
40603	K Gillespie	Newcastle United	4.00	0+28
40604	L Clark	Newcastle United	1.50	+1+23
40605	S Watson	Newcastle United	1.50	+1+7
40606	C Holland	Newcastle United	0.75	0
40607	R Elliott	Newcastle United	0.75	0
40701	D Anderson	Tottenham Hotspur	6.50	0+3
40702	D Howells	Tottenham Hotspur	1.50	0+23
40703	J Dozell	Tottenham Hotspur	0.75	0+14
40704	D Caskey	Tottenham Hotspur	0.75	0
40705	G McMahon	Tottenham Hotspur	0.50	+1+7
40706	I Dumitrescu	Tottenham Hotspur	4.00	+1+4
40707	R Fox	Tottenham Hotspur	6.00	+0+23
40801	S Barker	Queens Park Rangers	2.50	+1+19
40802	J Holloway	Queens Park Rangers	2.50	+1+13
40803	Imper	Queens Park Rangers	1.50	+2+23
40805	T Sinclair	Queens Park Rangers	3.00	+2+25
40807	S Osborne	Queens Park Rangers	1.50	0+9
40808	G Goodridge	Queens Park Rangers	0.75	0
40901	V Jones	Wimbledon	2.00	-1+8
40902	R Earle	Wimbledon	2.50	+8+36
40903	M Gayle	Wimbledon	1.50	0+12
40904	C Leonardzen	Wimbledon	2.50	+2+22
40905	N Ardley	Wimbledon	0.75	0
40906	P Fear	Wimbledon	0.75	0
41001	J Magilton	Southampton	3.00	+2+27
41002	N Maddison	Southampton	2.00	0+14
41003	N Heaney	Southampton	2.50	+2+10
41005	D Hughes	Southampton	0.75	0+6
41006	T Widdington	Southampton	1.00	0+16

THE TIMES TUESDAY JANUARY 2 1996

Leader's margin reduced to three points as nearest rivals enjoy successful week

Kickers' slip-up helps rivals to close the gap

It had to happen, finally. Kevin Kickers, who had looked to have one hand already on the Interactive Team Football (ITF) prize, have finally reached the end of their hot streak. And with Mr B Bear's Teddy Five enjoying a bumper week, the lead in Interactive Team Football is down to just three points.

Things can change quickly in football and the Kickers' slip-up means the race for the £50,000 first prize is well and truly on. Teddy Five, the team giving hardest chase to the leader, racked up a massive 41 points during the last week to move him up to 354. Mr James, the manager of Kevin Kickers, managed just two points in the same period and moves on to 357. Hot on their heels is Gohills Gods 65, the team of Mr B. Gohill, whose 35 points leave him close behind on 353.

The next week of action will be of particular interest and could see the lead change hands for the first time since the early weeks of the competition. The temporary change in Kevin Kickers' fortunes should certainly encourage everyone not to give up pursuit.

With the usual rash of post-Christmas sales, it seems a suitable time to highlight where bargains can be found in ITF. Here is a list of players whose price-tags when the competition began now look decidedly cheap.

Steve Harkness, of Liverpool, and Neil Cox, of Middlesbrough, cost just £0.75 million and have scored 24 and 23 points respectively from the full back position. The same price would have bought Cox's team-mates Steve Vickers (26 points) and Nigel Pearson (16 points). Vickers has proved one of the bargain buys of the competition.

Im midfield, any of David Beckham, of Manchester United, Joe Parkinson, of Everton, or Craig Hignett, of Middlesbrough, would have graced your ITF side despite a bargain-basement value. But value is much harder to find when it comes to purchasing strikers. Jason Lee, of Nottingham Forest, and Ronnie Rosenthal, of Tottenham, have



IN ASSOCIATION WITH



scored in excess of 20 points while costing £1.5 million. Otherwise, in this area at least, you get what you pay for.

If you want to shop around for new talent, with your players lacking form and fitness, you can move into the transfer market to improve your fortunes. ITF has a transfer system which allows you to change up to two players each week. Which player you want to offload and whom you replace him with is up to you, although you must replace the outgoing player with one from the same category (ie, a full back with a full back) and keep within your £35 million budget.

The ITF transfer system also allows you to adjust your team if one of your players is

actually transferred out of the FA Carling Premiership. He would then no longer be eligible for ITF. Any overseas or Endsleigh Insurance League players who move into the Premiership during the season will become available for transfer.

You can make transfers only by telephone. Using a Touch-tone (DTMF) telephone (most push-button telephones with a * and a hash key are Touch-tone), call the 0891 333 331 line during the times given. Calls will be charged at 39 pence per minute at other times. If you are calling from the Republic of Ireland, you must call 004 499 020 0631 and you will be charged 58 pence per minute at all times.

A player transferred out of your team must be replaced by a player from the same category — for example, a full back for a full back — so that the formation of a goalkeeper, two full backs, two central defenders, four midfield players, two strikers and a manager is maintained.

When making a transfer, you must ensure that the team value still falls within your £35 million budget and does not contain more than two individuals from the same club.

If you are lagging behind the leading team selectors, the transfer system will be an appealing option to you in the chase for the £50,000 prize or the monthly £500 prizes.

With ITF, not only are you pitting your selectorial skills against other readers of *The Times*, you are also matching your wits against those in the know. With the support of the Professional Footballers' Association, Premiership players have entered sides of their own, and Gary Ablett, of Everton, gives his selection on the opposite page. Like him, you may spend £5 million on Alan Shearer — but will he do better than other cheaper alternatives?

All matches in the Premiership and those in the FA Cup involving Premiership clubs count and your players and manager win and lose you points. With the competition now into its full stride, it is time for you to delve into the transfer market?

□ All queries regarding the transfer system in Interactive Team Football should be directed to 0171 757 7016. Inquiries about other aspects of play can be made on 01582 488 122.



Neil Cox, of Middlesbrough, right, has blossomed since his move from Aston Villa and his 23 points rank him among the best full backs in ITF

HOW THE SCORING SYSTEM WORKS IN ITF

All FA Carling Premiership and FA Cup matches in the 1995-6 season count for points. Every goal and penalty counts

POINTS SCORED			
Goalkeeper		Striker	
Keeps clean sheet*	4pts	Scores goal	2pts
Scores goal	3pts	All players	1pt
Full back/Central defender		Appearance	1pt
Keeps clean sheet*	3pts	Manager	3pts
Scores goal	3pts	Team wins	1pt
Midfield player		Team draws	1pt
Keeps clean sheet*	1pt		
Scores goal	2pts		

POINTS DEDUCTED			
Goalkeeper		Booked	1pt
Concedes goal	2pts	Concedes penalty	1pt
Full back/Central defender		Misuse penalty	1pt
Concedes goal	1pt	Scores own goal	1pt
All players		Manager	
	3pts	Team loses	1pt

POINTS DEDUCTED			
Goalkeeper	2pts	Booked	1pt
Concedes goal	2pts	Concedes penalty	1pt
Full back/Central defender	1pt	Misses penalty	1pt
Concedes goal	1pt	Scores own goal	1pt
All players	3pts	Manager	1pt
Sent off	3pts	Team losses	1pt

* Must have played for 75 minutes in the match
* Must have played for 45 minutes in the match

HOW TO MAKE A TRANSFER IN ITF

Call 0891 333 331

* Calls cost (per minute) 39p cheap rate, 49p other times. Rep. 58p

If calling from the Republic of Ireland, call 004 499 020 0631

You can make transfers only by telephone using a Touch-tone (DTMF) telephone (most push-button telephones with a * and a hash key are Touch-tone). You will need your ten-digit selector's PIN, which must be tapped in and not spoken. Follow the simple instructions and use the players' five-digit codes.

The line is open from 6pm on Tuesday until 11pm on Saturday; from 6pm on Saturday to 11pm on Sunday and from 6pm on Sunday until 3pm on Monday. If there are midweek matches, the line will also close at 3pm on the day of the match (or matches) and re-open the following day at 6pm.

You may make up to (but no more than) two transfers a week. Each transfer is a separate transaction and you must sell a player before you can buy one.

A player transferred out of your team must be replaced by a player from the same category — for example a full back for a full back.

When purchasing a player you must ensure that the team value still falls within your £35 million budget (even if your next transfer would result in an overspending) and does not contain more than two individuals (two players or one player and a manager) from the same club.

Your new player only starts to score points for you when his transfer is registered. The score of the player transferred out is taken at the time of transfer; he then ceases to score for you.

Player out: Club Player code

Player in: Club

THE WEEK'S TRANSFERS IN ITF

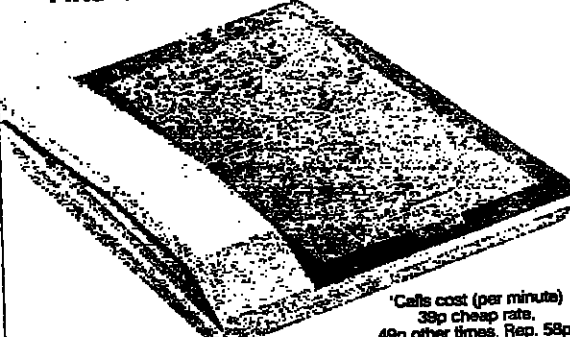
IN
There are no transfers into the ITF game this week

OUT
There are no transfers out of the ITF game this week

THE LEADING 250 SELECTORS IN INTERACTIVE TEAM FOOTBALL

Pos	Team	(Player's name)	Pts
1	Kevin Kickers	(Mr B Bear)	354
2	Teddy Five	(Mr B Gohill)	353
3	Gohills Gods 65	(P Sutton)	353
4	Rosies Supers	(Mr P Johnson)	326
5	Tommy Coddies XI	(K Booth)	326
6	Short and Stubbs	(S Brewer)	323
7	Stevens Lions 2	(S Brewer)	322
8	Stevens Lions 7	(S Brewer)	322
9	Sunderland Stars	(K Brown)	320
10	Nigels Right Foot	(Mr P Patel)	319
11	KP Fantasy Team 4	(M L Jones)	319
12	James Boys Six	(Mr S Tye)	318
13	Types Blue Noses	(Mr P Johnson)	317
14	They're Here	(Mr P Johnson)	317
15	My Cat Bailey	(S Brewer)	316
16	Stevens Lions 5	(A Hancock)	316
17	Al's Alceons	(J Nichol)	315
18	Percys Progress	(M Persich)	314
19	Jacobsville FC	(Mr A P Jacobucci)	313
20	Twilight United	(P C Diworon)	313
21	Nirvana FC	(J P Donovan)	312
22	Welland Wanderers FC	(S Lee)	311
23	Stevens Lions 6	(S Brewer)	311
24	Jeonmond 1888	(S Murray)	311
25	Adams Men Or God 4	(R Pike)	309
26	Harrington Inter	(Mr D Lovell)	308
27	Luxon's Longshots	(C London)	308
28	Strangers	(Mr S Santos)	308
29	Formby Flyers	(A Norton)	308
30	Jessies Darlings 4	(Mr A Nadison)	308
31	Firfly City	(P Hanne)	307
32	Gulford Marching	(J Harrison)	307
33	Oncelabluemoon	(Mr J M Harris)	307
34	Phyco And Smith	(Mr D Clarke)	307
35	Marthets 5	(T Martin)	307
36	Goal Diggers	(C Stacey)	306
37	Kims Kickers	(G Sutton)	306
38	M I Blues	(P C Hardan)	306
39	Transporter	(A Jenkinson)	306
40	Fusion Rangers	(J Lees)	306
41	Dwynys Dribblers	(A J Philcox)	305
42	Aberspurs	(G Shand)	305
43	The Conjurers	(Mr D J Farmer)	304
44	Phyco TV	(T Vardy)	304
45	Who Needs Mark	(P Persich)	304
46	The Young Guns	(M Priestley)	303
47	Map 9	(S Bunn)	303
48	Bohnen Forest	(R Banham)	303
49	Burnell United	(E Ronald)	302
50	Finglen Forest	(R Pike)	302
51	Adams Men Or God 1	(J P Barry)	301
52	Barnes Army	(K Hughes)	301
53	Jaynes Jugs	(Mr M Raja)	301
54	Accorling Ollie	(Mr P Johnson)	301
55	Barnet FC	(J Andrews)	301
56	Mama Runus FC	(S Lazaridis)	301
57	Apollo 2	(J Elkins)	301
58	The UK Beavers	(T McCuskey)	301
59	Mac United	(S Brewer)	300
60	Stevens Lions 8	(Mr S Hughes)	300
61	The Cokes Eaters	(Mr A F Winer)	300
62	Winters Wanderers	(C Woodward)	300
63	Fair Fair Flapdop	(P Simpson)	300
64	Forgies Fury	(K Booth)	300
65	The Good, Bad & Ugly	(E Donald)	299
66	Partisans	(J Baker)	299
67	Quinton Forest		299

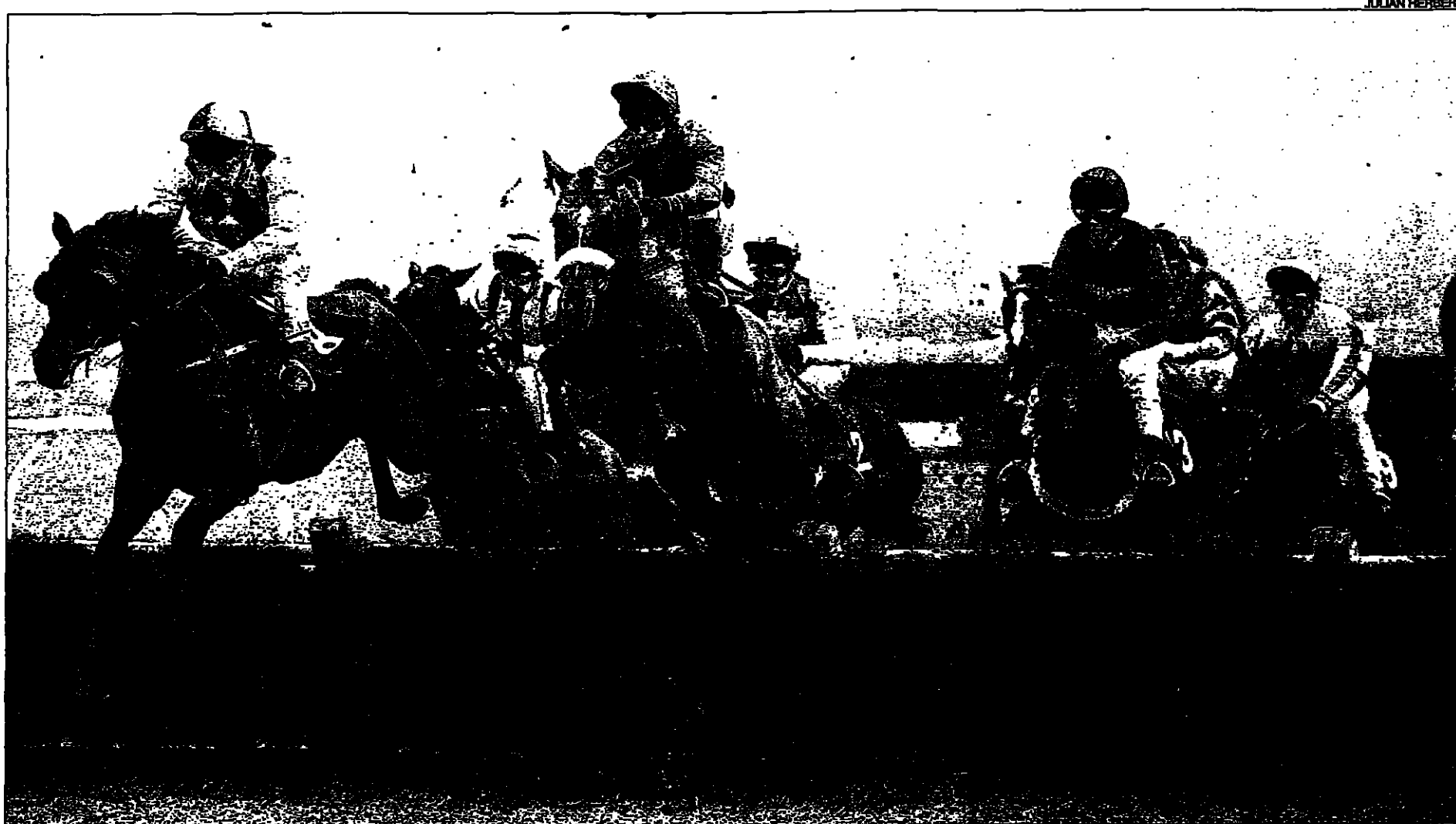
FIND OUT HOW YOUR TEAM IS DOING



Check your points total and your ranking. You need a Touch-tone (DTMF) telephone (most push-button telephones with a * and a hash key are Touch-tone) and your ten-digit selector's PIN. The line is open from noon to 11pm.

108	Bassett's Bouncers	(J Hurd)	294	182	Bonky Boys	(R P Crook)	288
109	Times R Us FC	(M Bywater)	294	183	Gales Champions	(M Gale)	288
110	Lucks Rovers 3	(N Butler)	293	184	Glen Rovers	(G Lloyd)	288
111	The Black Knights	(R A Green)	293	185	Langston Longshots	(J Ward)	288
112	No Sam Today	(N Webb)	293	186	Good-Time Boys	(R P Crook)	288
113	The Mainelaces	(Mr P J Butler)	293	187	Hyperboreans	(J Rabi)	288
114	PJB Rovers	(S Harris)	293	188	Mercer's Men	(D Bowlers)	288
115	No Hopes	(Mr M James)	293	189	Rainbow Connection	(G Weiss)	288
116	Overhill Rovers	(B Scottick)	292	190	Roy's Rangers	(P M Evans)	288
117	Scol Utd	(P Turner)	292	191	Synthetic Dozen	(Mr J Donaldson)	288
118	Turners Earners 2	(J Overton)	292	192	Top Heavy?	(P Young)	288
119	Rapid Overton	(A Goodie)	292	193	The 2 Units	(Mr A Harding)	288
120	Goats Please	(K R Grogan)	292	194	Adrian Harding's 11	(J Smith)	288
121	Woodstock XI	(Mr D Warner)	292	195	Glow In The Dark		288
122	Merks Mates 20	(Mr S Broome)	292	196	OK United		288
123	Green Wonders	(Mr M Hild)	292	197	Abernury Villa	(J S Dhesi)	288
124	Radford Rovers	(A Evans)	292	198	Armerch	(A Matheson)	288
125	Daniel James Utd	(S Radford)	292	199	Turners Earners	(P Turner)	288
126	Here We Go	(S Reynolds)	292	200	Haile Utd		288
127	Shrew Voles	(Mr S Smith)	292	201	County Pine N	(J Hunt)	287
128	The Premier Raiders	(H Breshaw)	292	202	Mike's Dream Team	(Mr Armstrong)	287
129	No Fear Utd	(Miss C Ede)	292	203	Anti-Saints	(J Lowson)	287
130	Grove Rovers	(G Saunders)	292	204	The James Gang	(A Norton)	287
131	Dawson Dreamteam	(T Townsend)	292	205	Betty Reserves	(G Middleton)	287
132	Doug's Desperados	(Mr D F Richardson)	292	206	Premier Allstars	(J John)	287
133	JRP Rovers	(C A Phillips)	292	207	Nics Ultimate 11	(Mr W Kerr)	287
134	All Stars	(Mr K Chapman)	291	208	The Woe Vics	(P Hill)	287
135	Clarks Coasters	(J Glassbrook)	291	209	Real Virtually	(T Malloch)	287
136	Glassie's Goers	(S Bradbury)	291	210	Keegan's Kings	(R Bialski)	287
137	Taste Of Aberdeen	(Mr P Johnson)	291	211	Score A Bundle	(G Latham)	287
138	Wharves Botham	(Mr T Haining)	291	212	The Olters	(Mr A Neviasny)	287
139	Henry Hills	(Mr P Thompson)	291	213	Neder	(R R Pilkington)	287
140	Barnet Bay Cole	(Mr A Johnson)	291	214	Pillips Pirates	(Mrs S Y Seal)	287
141	Allie Tarian Army	(A A Gordon)	291	215	Sale Select XI	(Mr B Gohill)	287
142	Go Go Champions	(R Stott)	291	216	Gohills Gods 82	(K Magee)	287
143	The Likely Lads	(P Parke)	291	217	Kirsty's Girls	(S Lampard)	287
144	The Parrados	(J Cozene)	290	218	Lampards Lot		287
145	Stevens Lions 1	(J Buckle)	290	219	Partgate Utd	(D W McBurney)	286
146	Novocastrians	(M Melidum)	290	220	Garden FC	(K Wan)	286
147	Long Drive	(Dr T Adolunji)	290	221	County Pine A	(J Hunt)	286
148	Lemonias	(M Priestley)	290	222	Panor United	(Mr P Mc Dowall)	286
149	Cameron Athen	(S Shosmith)	290	223	The Mind Boogies	(J F Kitchen)	286
150	Walkers Crispet	(B Mukhtar)	290	224	J K's Dolphins	(S Ireland)	286
151	Real Athletic	(W Doyle)	290	225	Premier Choice	(C Yates)	286
152	Madrid Knights	(S Allen)	290	226	Co's Dart Team	(C Armitage)	286
153	Very Forward	(G Long)	290	227	Gootee Softboard	(Mr P Johnson)	286
154	Incalls	(J H Ayrhord)	290	228	Bread Or Cake	(Mr P La Farge)	286
155	Semit ITF	(Mr P Johnson)	290	229	Pett Bot Rangers	(G J Strickland)	286
156	Sharon's Buds	(R Medley)	290	230	Nightmares	(J F Davidson)	286
157	Jovial Utd	(Mr M S J Dyer)	290	231	Newbottle Rovers	(S D Worthington)	286
158	Allstars XI	(Ramesh Patel)	290	232	Fox FC	(J Mumford)	286
159	Rassell 3	(M Stacey)	290	233	Mumfordian Utd	(J Mumford)	286
160	Francis Caldwell FC	(Mr T Stachetford)	290	234	The Rampant Rams	(M C Doherty)	286
161	The Woe One Too	(Mr P Macdonald Pursell)	290	235	110 per cent	(M C Doherty)	286
162	Chosen Men	(R F Foster)	290	236	The Sectors	(D Rhoades)	286
163	Robbo's Army	(E Layle)	290	237	Egerton Park	(P Dyne)	286
164	Chip W Dale XI	(S G Draper)	290	238	Dynamo Late Wibble	(M McCaown)	286
165	Bloombury City	(Mr J Waters)	290	239	Only Can Saver	(M Corless)	286
166	Moneybags United	(Hague)	290	240	Richies Rovers	(R Lovell)	286
167	Vesuvio	(A Morris)	290	241	Flair	(E Bhatnagar)	286
168	Gohills Gods 73	(T Becker)	290	242	Seamon Rovers	(J J Rich)	286
169	Richardsons Rubies	(G Foster)	290	243	JRFC 2	(R Davies)	286
170	Rory's Rovers	(P Sullivan)	290	244	Semerk Utd	(R Patel)	286
171	Gary Pearce		290	245	Fergies New Stars	(S Armitage)	286
172	Cincom Blues		290				
173	I Love Esther		290				
174	Map 8		290				

Exeter shrouded in fog as racing resumes after ten-day break



The blinkered Lisotho plays a prominent part in Pipe's profitable raid on Exeter yesterday by outstaying his novice hurdle rivals in the testing conditions

Pipe's army marches to 129-1 treble

By RICHARD EVANS, RACING JOURNALIST OF THE YEAR

SWIRLING fog, which verged on the pea-souper at times, could not prevent Exeter racing yesterday — and Martin Pipe took full advantage at his favourite course with a 129-1 treble. David Bridgwater rode all three winners.

After a ten-day freeze-up, which not only halted all racing in Britain but also interrupted the training of many horses, fitness mattered more than ever and Pipe's horses clearly enjoyed an edge as Crossa's Delight, Lisotho and Challenger Du Luc won the first three races in testing conditions — before ever-thickening fog forced the cancellation of the final two races on the card.

"It's been a struggle, but we have managed to keep going. We have had tractors on the go all day long and we have been galloping late. But this has

been worth the hard work for all the team through the bad weather. Fitness counts," the five-times champion trainer said, adding: "Hats off to Devon and a happy new year to everyone."

The determination of Exeter's race-course officials to see racing go ahead in difficult conditions was the perfect pick-me-up for a decent-sized crowd which braved the elements, although spectators gained only the occasional glimpse of action.

As the horses walked around the parade ring before the second race, the fog cleared sufficiently to allow a clear view of the home straight. By the time the horses had galloped to the start, the fog had descended to reduce visibility to little more than 50 yards and yet, when the leaders came round the final turn, all was clear again — briefly.

In truth, the conditions were distinctly similar to a New Year's Day hangover. For much of the day

everything was a haze, interrupted occasionally and unexpectedly by a brief spell of normality, only for the gloom to descend once again.

To give an accurate account of how individual horses ran and jumped would require the powers of Mystic

RICHARD EVANS

Nap: IRON N GOLD
(2.00 Lingfield Park)
Next best: Duke Valentino
(3.00 Lingfield Park)

Meg, after Crossa's Delight emerged from the fog to win the opening sale, even Pipe allowed himself a tongue-in-cheek joke. "Always going well," he quipped.

Those brave ante-post punters who have forced the Nicky Henderson-trained Our Kris to favouritism for

the Triumph Hurdle at the Cheltenham Festival will take comfort from the victory of Lisotho, a former French-trained horse, in the well-contested Thurlstone Hotel One Hundred Juvenile Novices' Hurdle. On his only other British start, at Newbury in November, he was beaten out of sight by Our Kris.

However, the feature race of the afternoon saw the chasing debut of the highly regarded *Real The Power* in the *Win With The Tote Novices' Chase*. With the fog timing its descent to cause maximum annoyance, only three of the 17 fences jumped could be seen by spectators.

Apparently jumping well at the head of the field, *Real The Power's* stamina was found wanting over a trip just short of three miles and Challenger Du Luc booked his entry for the Sun Alliance Chase with a comfortable 12-length success. "It was a hot contest and a very good performance. He will be entered for

the Sun Alliance but may not stay at this trip. This horse has got some gears," Pipe enthused.

As for *Real The Power*, Kim Bailey reported: "The trip was too far for him. On fast ground, three miles would be all right but on that going he wants 2½ miles."

Bailey intends being double-handed in the King George VI Tripleprint Chase on Saturday. Book of Music pleased when he worked yesterday morning and will join Master Oats in the Sandown line-up. However, riding plans remain fluid and hinge heavily on the availability of Jamie Osborne and Graham Bradley.

On a seasonal note, there was insufficient rain in the stables for Jackie Retter's four runners, but Purbeck Cavalier overcame spending the day in a lorry to win the Richard Thomsom 21st Birthday Celebration Novices' Handicap Hurdle and provide the local trainer with her first winner of the season.

Leaning towards Festival with Pisa expedition

Trainer Charlie Brooks tells why he is treading the same path as Vincent O'Brien

There is nothing new about sending horses to winter in Pisa. Vincent O'Brien, arguably the greatest trainer to study the thoroughbred racehorse, embarked on an historical mission during the winter of 1967-68 to condition Sir Ivor to win the 1968 2,000 Guineas and Derby.

Preceded by an excursion the winter before, O'Brien trusted one of his greatest talents to Pisa. It was a bold decision to commit such a prospect to relatively unknown territory.

Sir Ivor's stay in Pisa went mainly according to plan. A minor foot problem necessitated the attention of his blacksmith from Tipperary, but a greater potential problem was the local army base. As Sir Ivor returned from work one day, a helicopter popped up from behind a hedge, causing him to dive into a drainage ditch and deposit his work rider, Vincent Rossiter.

The logistics of such a journey in those days cannot have been easy. O'Brien sent out a team of six horses in December 1967 to stay until the end of February 1968.

Rossiter, who is now Tommy Stack's head man, recalled: "We took our own oats and feed supplements but used the local hay in Pisa. The majority of the work was steady but we did plenty of half-speed workouts. We did run a few in France on the way home. While they came out of their races well, they all needed the run."

That was helpful advice for our Italian expedition.

Having stayed with Duncan and Candy Sasse, who were training in Pisa at the time, in 1991, I decided that one day I would prepare some horses there for the Cheltenham Festival. So why now, and why anyway?

Padre Mio has had a successful but long campaign this summer winning in Ireland, France and England. He is a quirky horse who needs to be fresh. His last two races suggested that he has become jaded and a cold English winter is not what he needs.

Couldnt Be Better has done us proud this season by winning the Edward Hamner and the Hennessy Gold Cup, but he has a tendency to break blood vessels. The problem gets worse as the season goes on. It could be that high blood pressure, which is combated in humans by getting the individual to relax, is one factor that causes horses

hungs to bleed during intensive exercise.

Couldnt Be Better is quite an excitable animal and removing him from his normal training environment may be beneficial. Sasse also assured me that low grade respiratory viruses were not the norm in Pisa, as they are in Britain. That would be another good reason for sending him to the sea air. Breaking the seasonal cycle had to be worth trying.

Horses like athletes, clearly feel the benefit of training when the muscles are warm. The lack of humidity also removes the cold, damp feeling. Hopefully, the temperature could be 15 to 20C higher than in England.

No doubt there will be problems. Already, we have been told that Couldnt Be Better will not be allowed to canter in the afternoons. The training area is in the grounds of the President of



Brooks: Italian venture

Italy and he doesn't like his siesta being disturbed. Luckily, they change their presidents quite often so the next one may relent.

The training ground in Pisa is a beautiful park adjoining the beach. Miles of sand canter and a turf racecourse make up the facilities.

Hopefully, our training plan will deliver both horses back in England, three weeks before the Festival, in the right shape. The plan is to build up steady conditioning work over the seven weeks, leaving time for three weeks of cardio-vascular work in Lambourn.

Will Tony McKeon, in charge of the expedition, ring with the temperature every morning, only for us to find it colder in Pisa than Lambourn? Will the transport cost of approximately £1,500 prove a complete waste? Will I be fired at the end of the season? There is only one way to find out.

Cheltenham off again

THE rescheduled National Hunt meeting at Cheltenham today has again fallen victim to frost. The course failed to survive an afternoon inspection yesterday.

Lingfield Park's seven-race all-weather programme is the only survivor as Ayr has already been called off. But the turf track at Lingfield, where there is National Hunt racing scheduled tomorrow, is frozen

and a decision on any inspection will be made this morning. There will be a noon inspection at Musselburgh, where it is also hoped to stage racing tomorrow.

The frost is out of the track at Wolverhampton where the management is confident that all-weather racing can go ahead. Prospects for later in the week look brighter with temperatures forecast to rise.

RESULTS FROM YESTERDAY'S MEETING AT EXETER

Going: soft
12.45 (2m 2½ hds) 1. CROSSA'S DELIGHT (10) Bridgwater, 5-4 (m); 2. Palace Parade (10) Fox, 12-11; 3. Altham (10) P. McCoy, 8-1; 4. Mr Playbill (10) Frost, 11-10; ALSO RAN 10. 10.45 (2m 2½ hds) 1. Midsford (10) M. J. Smith, 11-10; 2. Midsford (10) M. J. Smith, 11-10; 3. Midsford (10) M. J. Smith, 11-10; 4. Midsford (10) M. J. Smith, 11-10; 5. Midsford (10) M. J. Smith, 11-10; 6. Midsford (10) M. J. Smith, 11-10; 7. Midsford (10) M. J. Smith, 11-10; 8. Midsford (10) M. J. Smith, 11-10; 9. Midsford (10) M. J. Smith, 11-10; 10. Midsford (10) M. J. Smith, 11-10; 11. Midsford (10) M. J. Smith, 11-10; 12. Midsford (10) M. J. Smith, 11-10; 13. Midsford (10) M. J. Smith, 11-10; 14. Midsford (10) M. J. Smith, 11-10; 15. Midsford (10) M. J. Smith, 11-10; 16. Midsford (10) M. J. Smith, 11-10; 17. Midsford (10) M. J. Smith, 11-10; 18. Midsford (10) M. J. Smith, 11-10; 19. Midsford (10) M. J. Smith, 11-10; 20. Midsford (10) M. J. Smith, 11-10; 21. Midsford (10) M. J. Smith, 11-10; 22. 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LAW

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Counselling for counsel

Should the professionals in traumatic trials also be offered extra help, asks David Conn

Immediately Rosemary West was convicted of ten horrific murders in November, the Lord Chancellor's Department (LCD) announced that it would be offering counselling to the jury. If the trial had distressed them, the jurors were told, they could make use of a freephone helpline, consult their GPs or, for the first time, see the department's own welfare officers.

Only days after the offer was made to the West jury, it was accepted: the jurors coming together for a group session with the LCD welfare officers. The department would not comment further on the nature of the session, but Cary Cooper, Professor of Psychology at the University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology, and an expert on stress, explained that short "debriefings" are increasingly common after traumatic events.

Counsellors explain that post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) can have a delayed genesis; symptoms may erupt suddenly long after the traumatic "event". People are encouraged not to bottle up their feelings and are advised where to seek help if symptoms develop.

Lawyers applauded the LCD's enlightened approach. Sacha Wass, junior counsel for Mrs West, said she sympathised with the jury, confronted with extremely disturbing material. John Nutting, QC, senior prosecutor at the Old Bailey, though not directly involved with the case, said: "I'm not surprised that the poor jury has to ask for counselling."

Yet among this admirable concern on the part of the



The trauma of hearing evidence such as that given in the Rosemary West trial can affect people for years

lawyers and the faint trace of self-congratulation by the LCD, psychologists were saying that the process should have gone further, to include the lawyers and the judge as well. "Why was the jury singled out?" asked Professor Cooper. "Everybody involved in the case should have some form of help. Lawyers may be more used to dealing with such matters — but they are still human beings."

Neither the Bar Council nor the Law Society provides counselling facilities. Judges, nominally LCD employees, can consult the welfare officers, but a spokesman knew of no cases in which they had.

Brian Leveson, QC, lead prosecuting counsel, took a few days off after the trial but was returning, according to his clerk, to "a full diary". Richard Ferguson, QC, Rosemary West's lead counsel, began another trial on November 28, five days after the West trial, defending a man accused of attempting to murder a policeman. And Ms Wass is

drafting the grounds for West's planned appeal.

The judge, Mr Justice Manton, following his sentencing of one of the worst mass murderers in history, was trying Gurnan v Allied Mills, in which Mr Gurnan was claiming compensation for a bad back he claimed had been caused at work.

Professor Cooper considers the absence of counselling facilities to be potentially very harmful, especially in the legal profession which, he argues, is not characterised by an openness about emotion.

"Nobody is immune," he said. "PTSD can be triggered by something personal. A case of child murder, for example, can cause distress to a parent of small children. It may not manifest itself until months later. Someone may suddenly feel anxious or irritable or depressed, and they do not relate it to work they did months ago. The purpose of initial counselling is to get it out at the beginning."

David Richards, principal welfare adviser to the Gloucestershire Constabulary, which

carried out the West murder investigation, confirmed that some police officers involved with the West case had been counselled. In some police cantons, he said, counselling still carried a stigma; but this was changing.

The lawyers' exposure to the West case and the cellar of death at 25 Cromwell Street was, if anything, more detailed than the jury's. An agreement between prosecution and defence had kept some of the worst material from the jury.

Ms Wass commented: "Criminal cases can be harrowing when they involve rape, murder or child abuse. This one concerned multiple instances of all of them." "Everybody, she reflected, had different ways of coping with stress. In her case, within the bounds of confidentiality, she did feel able to talk to colleagues. "I believe," she said, "the Bar is a more supportive profession than you might think."

But Mr Nutting did not think barristers felt comfort-

able discussing personal distress with colleagues, for fear of it being seen as weakness. He had always found it easy to "shut the book" after a case, and was "not convinced" that the Bar Council should provide counselling.

To many versed in psychology, such an attitude is unrealistic. Professor Cooper pointed out that unrelieved stress can manifest itself in many ways, in alcoholism, depression, even financial problems. "By suggesting counselling, you're not telling people that they can't cope," he said. "You're informing them of the possibility they may have problems later."

Despite the LCD's enlightened recognition that counselling may help to prevent such problems, there remains a blind pride in the robustness of the legal profession.

The West jurors were discharged and told they need never experience such an ordeal in court again. The lawyers had no such freedom; they continued their career, and a long exposure to human depravity.

Innocent or guilty, it's luck of the law

When they take themselves too seriously, lawyers and judges like to pretend that the legal system is based on objective principles of law and justice which regulate what we may or may not do to each other and to ourselves. In fact, the law is, to a surprisingly large extent, a game of chance determined by good fortune as much as by good judgment, occasionally influenced, as the school of American realists taught in the 1930s, by what the judge had for breakfast.

In some courts, as accurate a prediction of the outcome may be obtained from Mystic Meg as from a study of Halsbury's Laws of England. This can be frustrating for those who think they have a strong case, reassuring for those who have been advised that they are in the wrong, and exciting for those who have no stake in the outcome.

For those lawyers and judges who cannot tolerate being deprived for the duration of the Christmas vacation of the potent combination of law and chance supplied by courts up and down the land, Spear's Games has produced an entertaining substitute. *You be the Judge: The Game of Real Life Court Dramas* (£16.99).

Two players, or two teams of players, take it in turns to read from one of 500 cards, each of which describes in about 100 words the central elements of a civil or criminal court case from one of a number of jurisdictions around the world. The opposing player, or team, then has to give the verdict for or against the litigant identified on the card. If you judge the case correctly — that is, if you supply the verdict which was given by the relevant court, and is printed on the back of the card — then you may throw the dice to determine how many moves you travel around the board to the winning post.

You be the Judge may not live up to the claim in the promotional material that it is "the game that'll make you flip your wig". But if played after a large, festive lunch, and the consumption of generous quantities of alcohol, the game certainly bears more than a passing resemblance to proceedings in many courts of law.

Judgment is pronounced on the basis of limited information (the cards frequently tell participants less than they need to know about the facts, the governing law and the date of the case, and sometimes we are not even informed in which country the litigation occurred); the proceedings involve noisy disagreements between all those in court; the verdict of those performing the role of judge is more often wrong than right; the judgment contains

inadequate reasoning (the answers on the cards do not always illuminate why the court reached the result described); and it is likely to provoke bad-tempered expressions of astonishment, with accusations of gross incompetence or worse — at least, if the response of my family of two barristers and three barrack-room lawyer children is typical.

Most of the cases described on the cards are exotic specimens that would not normally be encountered in the course of judicial duties. Was Anne entitled to change the locks to exclude her spouse, Scamus, from their apartment because he had not bathed or changed his clothes for weeks? Did a Hawaii court rule in favour of a woman who sued her astrologer for the return of the fees she had paid him when none of his predictions came true? Was a human cannonball entitled to damages from a local TV station when it videotaped and broadcast one of his performances without his permission? The Lord Chancellor's Department is unlikely to abandon the training conferences organised by the Judicial Studies Board and substitute regular sessions in which trainee judges are encouraged to play this board game.

The legal system frowns on any overt link between law and chance. In fiction, Nabokov's *Invitation to a Beheading* decided cases by throwing dice. But those judges and juries who have sought to imitate that example have been reprimanded for undermining public confidence that legal answers depend on evidence and reason.

In 1677, a verdict was set aside and the jury was fined because, being unable to agree, it decided the case. In 1737, the members of another jury were ordered to attend before the court "to be publicly admonished, that the country may take warning" after they decided their verdict "by hussling half-pence in a hat". A Manhattan criminal court judge was barred from office by the New York State Commission on Judicial Conduct in 1983 for deciding the length of a prison sentence on the toss of a coin.

In a 1964 decision in the Court of Appeal, Lord Justice Diplock asserted that a judge "must not spin a coin" to decide a case. For lawyers conducting a little vacation business, different rules apply. Despite its imperfections, *You be the Judge* is an excellent late Christmas, or Chanukah, present for any lawyer or judge from assistant recorder to law lord, even those who think that the law has nothing to do with luck, good or bad.

● The author is a practising barrister and a Fellow of All Souls College, Oxford.



DAVID PANNICK QC

January The annual award for Lawyer's Understatement of the Year is given to Leo Goadley, the solicitor of Frederick West's wife, who said: "She did know he was a rascal. He was not an angel by any means, and he used to get into trouble in one way or another over the years."

February The judge who brought his dog to court, prompting complaints from one litigant that the beast's snoring interrupted the case, starts a trend. Judges find it convenient to bring their pets to court rather than leaving them at home to make messes on the carpet. Barristers try to curry favour by bringing poop scoops to court and showing interest in the judge's hamster.

March City solicitors each donate £5,000 worth of legal work to worthy causes. A spokesman says: "This means a charity can have up to five hours of one of our trainee's time." Lucky recipients include Haringey

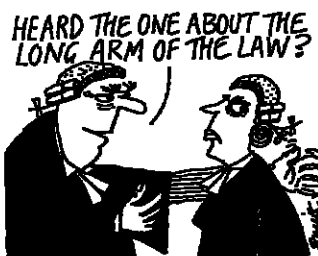
Patrick Stevens offers a month-by-month guide to some of the real and surreal events that marked out 1995

That was the year that nearly was

Women's Refuge (advice on how to minimise tax on overseas earnings). Boating for the Disabled (advice on ship mortgages) and the National Trust (advice on demolition of listed buildings).

April The Law Society warns solicitors against being involved in fraud. "It's easy to get sucked into it," says a spokesman. "The fraudsters offer enormous fees for very little work and it is very tempting." A clarification is issued after most solicitors think the Law Society is referring to estate agencies.

May To stop sexual harassment of female applicants for pupillage, the



Bar issues a code of conduct, forbidding pupilmasters from offering sex in return for pupillage. Solicitors also move to improve standards after unprecedented slanging matches in the elections for president of the Law Society. Banned terms include:

Commie lover, Nazi, old bag. "Termagant" is allowed after research shows that the majority of solicitors think it is a kind of African ant.

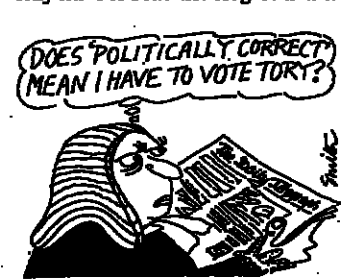
September Lord Mackay of Clashfern, the Lord Chancellor, accepts a judge's explanation that he did not take cannabis or cocaine before, during or after sex with two prostitutes. The consensus (of judges and those who wish to become one) is that such behaviour, though unacceptable in a magistrate, does not disqualify a judge from trying building disputes.

October The Lord Chancellor agrees to have

a rethink on a Bill that Tory MPs say gives cohabiting couples the same rights as married ones. The *Daily Telegraph* worries about the prospect of "politically correct judges" and what they might get up to with the new legislation. One solicitor comments: "We're not guaranteed legally correct judges, so a politically correct one would be a definite advantage."

Matthew McCloy, a solicitor who practises in Newbury and is also chairman of the British Horseracing Board, was "restrained" with plastic handcuffs after helping himself to an extra drink on a transatlantic flight. This was followed by his arrest at JFK airport on the ground that he bore the

same name (though presumably not the same appearance) as a Jamaican wanted by the police. Airlines have anxiously reviewed their policies regarding lawyers and inflight drinks. "They're used to doing as they are told and they only have to read the slogan 'Drink



Canada Dry" and they start at the departure lounge," said a spokesman. The problem is that if the plane carries enough drink for them, there is insufficient fuel to get across the Atlantic.

November After dentists decide to call themselves "Doctor", the legal profession has to decide what its members shall be called. Barristers reject "Your Beatitude" as being difficult for some clients to master and settle for "Your Lordship". Solicitors go for the traditional option of "Yo" for senior solicitors while newly qualified solicitors will be addressed as before with the phrase, "Big Mac and fries, please".

December After the Maxwell jury gets three weeks' holiday for Christmas, other juries seek similar privileges. Trials around the country grind to a halt as juries demand hampers and a Christmas bonus.

British lawyers working in Paris showed the Dunkirk spirit when a series of strikes against the Government brought most of France to a standstill

How to survive during the French revolution

Life is returning to normal for those British lawyers based in Paris who have been suffering the effects of weeks of French strikes. They are now recovering from shutdowns in transport and the post, and upsets in other sectors, all of which disrupted the daily management of lawyers' offices.

When the stoppages started, it did not take long for British lawyers to adjust to these strained circumstances. Harvey Chalmers, the local managing partner of Simmons &

Simmons, says: "The Dunkirk spirit soon surfaced. We may have had our backs to the wall, but we coped wonderfully."

One firm, Norton Rose, is producing a commemorative sweatshirt for those who saw active service in its Paris office during the strikes. Two other English law firms have been boasting of the dedication of their secretaries, who were walking for four hours in the morning to reach the office, and four hours back home in the evening, in order to beat the lack of public transport

and the car jams on the roads.

The effects of the strikes on the practical management of offices such as Clifford Chance and Simmons & Simmons was considerable. One firm reckoned that it had cost almost £8,000 in extra expenses for overnight hotel stays and taxi fares. Post office strikes and the transport shutdowns meant that no cheques were coming in — and no invoices going out.

Yet most firms doing international transactions managed to maintain their normal

workload. Fax and e-mail were unaffected by the strikes and their continued use meant that the lawyers' international clients could still receive written communications — and that France Telecom earned a lot of money.

Banking lawyers went to meetings by bicycle rather than by taxi, and the wheels of high finance continued to turn. Work hours were shifted. For example, the day did not start until 11am and ended later in order to avoid the worst of the traffic jams.

In Los Angeles, in the wake of the earthquake, many lawyers "commuted" from home by computer to their networked offices. But in Paris, very few British lawyers based there have adapted to that way of working.

Mr Chalmers says: "We've been considering the possibility of linking up lawyers' homes to the office for some time, but have not got around to doing it. The strikes, however, have made us think about it more urgently."

Deborah Clark, a partner at Norton Rose, says that the volume of work accomplished actually increased because colleagues were arriving earlier and leaving later. But, she adds: "I have to say that I see no effect on business confidence in France. I specialise in international asset finance and there is no indication that this work has been affected."

Harder hit, perhaps, were those firms doing mainstream commercial work, such as Fidal, the legal arm of the accountants KPMG. With about 1,000 lawyers, of whom a quarter are based in Paris, it is the largest law firm in France.



Workers protest against cuts proposed by Alain Juppé, the French Prime Minister, below

Kristin Defert is an international mergers and acquisitions lawyer with Fidal. During the strikes, many of her overseas visitors were forced to cancel their trips to Paris and deals were stalled as people could not get to meetings. She says: "Many of our clients had a lot of practical problems on their minds because of the strikes, and therefore deferred visits to their lawyers."

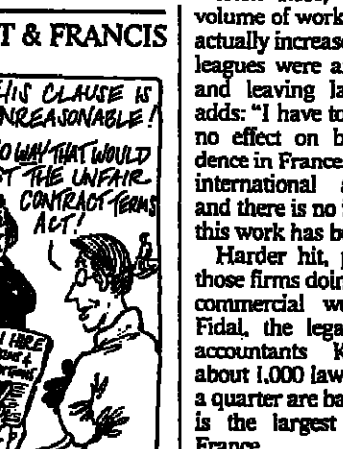
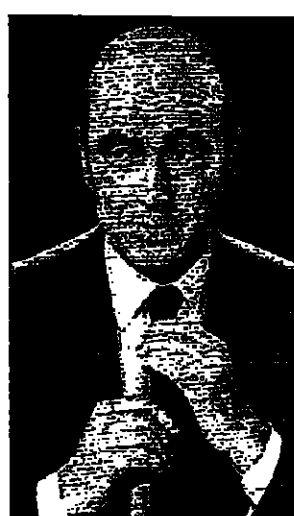
Her view is that the strikes could be bad for the French economy in the short term as investments are held back. The real issue, for her, is whether the Government can implement its reforms, includ-

ing changes to employment law. "If the Prime Minister is successful," she says, "France will become more attractive for overseas investors."

Klein-Goddard is the French wing of Theodore Goddard, Jean-Yves Martin, a partner in the French firm, says the strikes were "not perceived as a problem" by the business community.

However, French people in general are not forming opinions until they know whether the unions, after their negotiations with Alain Juppé, the Prime Minister, will decide to strike again this month.

EDWARD FENNELL





Consider your verdict

What happens when magistrates retire to decide a case? Every magistrate's court has a "retiring room". No, it's not somewhere where pensioned-off JPs browse quietly among dusty papers, but a room in which lay magistrates consider their verdict and/or sentence. (Stipendiary magistrates have their own rooms.) They do this without assistance, although they may ask the clerk to give them advice on the law. Apart from this, the clerk takes no part in the decision-making.

After the defendant has pleaded "Not guilty" and prosecution and defence evidence has been heard, it is neither practicable nor desirable for magistrates to discuss the pros and cons of the evidence in open court. Hence the use of the retiring room, where privacy is ensured. Such is the importance attached to this privacy that every effort is made to ensure that only one bench of magistrates is in the room at any one time: ie, there is never any cross-input between different benches. Even royalty is excluded from the retiring room, as one royal visitor found out when he was politely told during an official visit to a court that he couldn't "listen in" to a bench discussing a case that he had been following in court.

When the three magistrates reach the retiring room, the chairman will, without indicating any

How do magistrates reach a verdict?
Derek Edmunds talks out of court

view on the guilt or innocence of the defendant, ask the least experienced magistrate whether, on the evidence, he or she finds the case "proved" or "not proved"; whether the defendant is guilty or not guilty. After the other magistrate has given his view, the chairman will give his. If the views are unanimous, the magistrates return to the court to announce the verdict. If, however, the three views are not unanimous, a more detailed study of the evidence will be made: all three magistrates discuss the evidence they have heard. If the verdict is still split 2:1 after this discussion, and the chairman considers that further discussion will not change this, that is how it is left.

The magistrates then return to the court, where the chairman announces the verdict. No indication of whether or not the verdict is unanimous is ever given.

If the verdict is "Guilty", then the magistrates will be given details of any previous convictions. The magistrates will, however, ignore "old" convictions and "irrelevant"

The JPs will then start a 'structured decision process'

convictions. For example, if the defendant has been found guilty of assaulting a police officer, a previous conviction for, say, speeding would be ignored because it is not a "violent" offence.

The Bench may then retire a second time to consider the punishment. The Magistrates' Association issues guidelines giving "entry points" for most offences; for example, custody for assaulting a police officer; a fine for careless driving. This time, therefore, discussion in the retiring room will centre on the appropriateness of the "entry point" punishment, which can be modified for many reasons; eg, first offence/long conviction record or offence committed on impulse/premeditated. As before, the chairman will lead his colleagues through a "structured decision process" which will review the available punishment options.

At the end of the scale are those sentences that "restrict personal freedom", such as a custodial (prison) sentence or a Community Service Order (CSO), under which

the defendant works for the community. At the bottom end is an absolute discharge, whereby the magistrates agree that no punishment is necessary. Between the two limits lies a punishment that is appropriate to the offence, which may, of course, be modified by "mitigating circumstances", such as when the defendant has expressed remorse, or has pleaded "Guilty" at the earliest opportunity.

Should a prison sentence or CSO be considered appropriate, the magistrates will almost certainly ask for a pre-sentence report (PSR). If that happens, the case will be adjourned for the probation service to prepare the PSR. When it is received, a final visit to the retiring room will be made to consider its contents and decide the punishment. If requested by them, the same bench of magistrates can deal with this, but the court rota system usually means that a different bench passes sentence.

Hearing the case in open court is only one part of the judicial process: an objective and unbiased discussion of the evidence presented by both sides is essential if a correct verdict is to be reached by magistrates, and a fair punishment imposed. The retiring room enables such a discussion to be carried out by magistrates in complete privacy, with the freedom of expression and independent thought that such privacy brings.

Is client-chasing for civil cases costing the taxpayer too much?

Marty Day's objection to the Lord Chancellor's, Lord Woolf's and the Legal Aid Board's belated attempts to control the expenditure of civil legal aid fees ("A Win for the Goliath", *The Times*, December 5, 1995) fits like a glove with his and his firm, Leigh Day & Co's propensity to campaign and litigate, often at the British taxpayers' expense.

That Mr Day and his colleagues feel that their approach is for their clients' and the public good is beyond question. Whether or not they and other plaintiffs' solicitors, some of whom are more robust than Leigh Day & Co in seeking out clients, are blinkered in their clients' and their own professional and financial causes is worthy of debate.

What motivates law firms to seek out personal injury claimants and even, in some cases (but not Leigh Days), to buy the names of accident victims from middlemen? Is it really irrefutable in an era of Citizens Advice Bureaux, neighbourhood law centres and a press keen to expose injustice and to encourage redress, that there is a large group of potential claimants who but for campaigning lawyers would not recognise their right to pursue claims? Can they owe a duty to clients whom they do not yet have? Are they wholly uninfluenced by the business benefits to them of multi-plaintiff litigation funded by the public purse?

This shopping for clients whose causes are often paid for by the British taxpayer is not confined to these shores. Richard Meeran, a partner in Leigh Day & Co, has also complained about his firm's failure to persuade the English courts that it should be permitted, with the benefit of English legal aid, to run an expensive claim against a UK headquartered multinational corporation arising out of an accident suffered by a Scot while resident and working in Namibia.

Leigh Day & Co is not alone in seeking to run claims for foreigners who might nevertheless qualify for legal aid support to pursue cases in the English courts. Freeth Cartwright, one of the leading law firms in transnational litigation in England, tried - in vain - to run several individual claims by New Zealanders on the basis that legal aid for such claims was not available to them in their own country.

Leigh Day & Co, as one of the very best of specialist plaintiffs' law firms, has enjoyed many notable successes, but to claim, as Mr Day does, that the "failed on all counts" group action, brought on behalf of childhood leukaemia victims around the Sellafield nuclear plant, has been a triumph for British

Who loses in the legal aid stakes?



Lord Woolf: belated attempt to control costs of civil justice

justice in giving the weaponry to the Davids to take on the corporate Goliaths, breathtakingly overlooks the fact that the hopes of the claimants and their families were raised and dashed, using immense amounts of public money. No mention, of course, of the justice of those claims having been refused by an experienced judge after all the available evidence had been considered.

To suggest that the estimated £30 million of taxpayers' money spent on transnational litigation is acceptable simply because not all group actions succeed, glosses over the question of whether that and other unsuccessful actions should have been run at all or withdrawn sooner. Certainly, no regard appears to have been paid to the report published in May 1994 by the Legal Aid Board distancing itself from any blame over the millions in public funds spent on funding the 13,000 transnational claims that were subsequently found not to be worth pursuing.

The board pointed its finger at our civil justice system and procedures (as if neither it nor the solicitors it was funding appreciated the obstacle course that lay ahead of them), and at some of the

plaintiffs' solicitors involved. Of them, the board said "there is no incentive on the solicitors to act as a responsible filter for dubious cases, as there is no effective sanction available to the funder, the board, for shoddy work or for bad cases being taken. The board has to rely on the assisted person's legal advisers to act responsibly and competently... clearly, these types of actions are generating lots of weak or hopeless cases." Among the factors which it quoted as tending to cause this were:

- The fact that a number of these claims have been publicly generated, either by solicitor advertising or by the media.
- What can only be described as a "bandwagon" effect: plaintiffs and legal advisers getting carried away by everything surrounding the action and losing sight of the viability of individual cases.

There must be some boundaries to the concept of access to justice. Some controls must be exercised over those whose partisanship might otherwise cause them to over-commit to their own pet causes. The Lord Chief Justice, Lord Taylor of Gosforth, Lord Woolf, and even the Lord Chancellor's Department are trying their best not to tilt civil legal aid towards or against plaintiffs or defendants. They are undoubtedly fed up with professional litigators wringing and acting on their own script and, in some cases, paying only lip service to the Legal Aid Board as funders.

As I can testify from personal experience, no private enterprise, whether the corporate Goliath or an insurance company, or an individual paying for his or her own representation, fails to apply a costs-benefit test before deciding whether to embark on or defend civil litigation. This means that their regular solicitors know that they will not be thanked or retained again if they are less than pragmatic about the merits of this or that case.

In the transnational litigation, I am in a position to know that neither major corporate defendant was taken by surprise about the extent of their exposure to successfully spent defence costs, whereas the £30 million-plus bill now confronting the Legal Aid Board seems not to have been wholly expected.

Beware the special pleadings of those who might have a vested interest in the unlimited funding of litigation.

DAVID A. MCINTOSH
● The author is senior partner of Davies Arnold Cooper, which has acted for defendants in such cases.

LEGAL APPOINTMENTS

NEW YEAR RESOLUTIONS...

ASSET FINANCE

Are you looking for a lead role and real potential partnership? If you are and have between 3-6 years' exp in asset finance then this first rate City practice would like to hear from you. You will work as part of a general banking department and assume responsibility for it. Ref: T25268

COICO

Heavy-weight regional practice seeks company/commercial lawyers with 4-6 years' exp to undertake a varied caseload of corporate transactions, including acquisitions and disposals and joint ventures. With proven marketing skills and a desire to play a lead role in the structure of the department this one is a must. Ref: T21868

TRADEMARKS

An unusual opportunity. Premier City practice is now looking to recruit a trademark specialist to join its prestigious department. A real challenge because whoever gets this role will have the opportunity to manage and take a front line position. Ref: T25946

SENIOR IN-HOUSE

Major global engineering group seeks senior lawyer to support the Director of Legal Affairs. Work load will consist of a high volume of merger, acquisition and disposal work. With at least eight years' exp from a major City firm or the manufacturing industry, you will be a pro-active and commercially-minded lawyer seeking a fresh challenge. Ref: T19564

INSURANCE

Leading insurance practice now seeking 0-2 years' exp solicitor to deal primarily with policy wording and coverage disputes, product liability and property claims. Litigation experience is essential and candidates must have excellent academic record and strong personality. Ref: T23128

PROPERTY LITIGATION

Reading to EPartnership Excellent opportunity to join this major regional practice to be based in their Reading office. With between 5-7 years' exp, you will have gained excellent broad-based property litigation experience to date including landlord and tenant. If you are an ambitious and motivated lawyer, there are definite partnership prospects. Ref: T20714

SECURITIES

Major City firm with an excellent reputation in this field seeks high quality securities and non-contentious banking lawyers with between 3-6 years' exp. In addition to mainstream banking experience, you will have gained first-class regulatory exposure. Excellent opportunity to join a major player in the field. Ref: T19879

PROPERTY

Outstanding opportunity for a 2-3 year qualified commercial property lawyer with a City or regional firm background to join a leading City firm. The workload will include a broad range of property led transactions and corporate support. Excellent experience and academic ability are absolutely essential. Ref: T15948

US BANK - SINGAPORE

Exceptional opportunity to work in the Singapore office of this leading US based merchant bank. Opportunities for lawyers with at least 4 years' exp either to undertake capital markets/general banking work or compliance and private banking matters, working closely with other offices within the region. With relevant experience, truly dynamic and commercial individuals should apply. Ref: T25691

INSOLVENCY

Leading City firm now seeks non-contentious insolvency lawyers with between 2-6 years' experience to join its banking department. Outstanding opportunity for suitably qualified and first rate individuals to work for one of the most enviable client bases in the City and to undertake a diverse and high profile workload. Good prospects. Ref: T24898

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1996 LONDON & TOKYO

CORPORATE PARTNER

Highly regarded and profitable medium-sized City firm seeks additional partner to add gravitas and profile to the Corporate Department. Firm has excellent media and IP related clients offering substantial opportunities to cross-sell as well as strong international associations. New recruit will play a key role in developing the corporate profile and strong practice development skills will be crucial. A following is not essential. Excellent and supportive growth environment and remuneration at the top end of City rates. (Ref: T4628)

EMPLOYEE BENEFITS

Highly reputable City practice with strong reputation in pensions and employment work seeks to fill perceived "gap" in its practice by the recruitment of a senior lawyer with in-depth employee benefits experience as a partner designate to develop the firm's practice in this area. Outstanding quality of current employment and pensions clientele provides significant opportunity for cross-selling. Firm has the strongest possible long term commitment to this specialisation. (Ref: T5135)

JAPAN

New opening in medium-sized City firm with international office network. Client is raising current head of Tokyo office back to London and is seeking a senior associate or junior partner capable of replacing him. Ideal candidate will have spent a minimum of 2 years working in Tokyo. Practice areas in Tokyo and banking. Candidates sought must be sufficiently entrepreneurial to see managing and developing this office as an exciting challenge. (Ref: T5134)

BANKING

Relatively recently formed Banking Department at top City practice seeks additional lawyer with 2-6 years' banking experience. Mix of work will include trade finance and syndicated loans, and some capital markets for UK and foreign lenders. Within the firm's 5 year business plan, significant growth in the Banking Department is one of the key priorities. As a result, prospects in this area are genuinely very good. (Ref: T5158)

EEC PARTNER DESIGNATE

Medium-sized central London practice with very stable partnership and unusual range of client activity is seeking an EEC specialist to give them high level expert support in this area. There is already a significant caseload to undertake and the firm (which has a Brussels office) believes that the next 5 years will see major growth in EEC related transactions from existing clients. Ideal candidate will be 4-6 years qualified, trained at a top 10 City firm and have spent at least a year living and working in Brussels. (Ref: T668)

UNUSUAL COICO

Applied City firm with household name company client base seeks a flexible, academically bright 2-5 year qualified company/commercial lawyer for a challenging mix of work ranging from floatations to high profile international joint ventures, often with a media bias. Successful Candidates will be the only assistant at this level in the department and future prospects are, therefore, excellent. Open, friendly working environment. (Ref: T5449)

PENSIONS 7-15 YEARS

Opportunity for pensions lawyer with minimum of 2 years' experience to join valued team at medium-sized City firm. Tailor-made management structure has ensured good partner to assistant ratio resulting in possibility for individual career progression with informed partner supervision. Ideal job for candidate being under-valued by current firm or possibly being created as just a member of the corporate support team. (Ref: T5925)

JUNIOR PROPERTY

Well managed, highly regarded property team at medium-sized City firm with clients including some of the largest retailers in the UK and tall built skyscrapers in London. Junior lawyer with good property law skills, a good group. Ideal candidate will be 0-2 years qualified, must have a 2:1 and good property training in articles and enjoy the idea of being part of a team which has a very close commercial working relationship with its clients. (Ref: T5946)

ZARAK
MACRAE
BRENNER

ZMB

For further information in complete confidence on these and the many other vacancies currently registered with us, please contact Miranda Smyth, Andrew Russell or Jonathan Brenner (all qualified lawyers) on 0171-377 0510 (0171-624 8647 evenings/weekends) or write to us at Zarak Macrae Brenner, Recruitment Consultants, 37 Sun Street, London EC2M 2PY. Confidential fax 0171-247 5174. E-mail miranda@zmb.co.uk

Moore House
119 London Wall
London EC2Y 5ET
Tel: 0171-628 8100
Fax: 0171-628 9001

NEW YEAR RESOLUTION

COMMERCIAL LITIGATION

2 to 4 years qualified to £45,000
A rare opportunity has arisen for a general commercial litigator to join one of the City's premier contentious departments. A combination of technical ability, good experience and commercial acumen is essential. This is an excellent opportunity. T.9153.

COMMERCIAL

2 to 3 years qualified to £45,000
A bright and motivated lawyer is actively being sought to handle commercial (not corporate) work at one of the City's most forward-thinking practices. Heavyweight client base and involves a great deal of client contact. T.8954.

PROPERTY LITIGATION

2 to 4 years qualified to £45,000
Medium-sized West End firm, which is particularly well-known for property litigation work, now requires a junior assistant. This specialist litigation team handles a wide range of matters including mortgage actions and landlord and tenant work for numerous lenders. T.9164.

COMPANY/COMMERCIAL - DURAI

2 to 4 years qualified to £45,000
The Middle East office of top City firm requires an assistant to undertake a broad range of work including joint ventures, takeovers, distribution agreements and employment contracts. Top twenty City firm background is required. T.9138.

ADMIRALTY

2 years + qualified to £45,000
Niche shipping and insurance practice requires an admiralty expert, preferably with sea-faring experience to join this established team. The majority of the practice's work is of an international nature. Marketing skills important. T.8769.

BANKING

to £45,000
City firm with substantial office in Singapore now requires additional assistants with two to five years experience of general banking/finance work. Project finance knowledge is a particular advantage. Opportunity to return to London or other offices, if desired. T.8743.

EMPLOYMENT LAW

2 to 4 years qualified to £32,000
City practice with an enviable record of growth in the last five years, requires an additional assistant for the Employment Group to handle both contentious and non-contentious work. Employment experience from City or large provincial firm is required. T.9132.

PROPERTY FINANCE/BANKING

1 to 3 years qualified to £32,000
A bright and enthusiastic property finance lawyer is now sought by this leading City firm. A pure banking background will also be considered. First class prospects with no strings attached. Working environment is very good and money is excellent. T.9171.

GARFIELD ROBBINS
LEGAL RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

100 Wellington Street
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Tel: 0113 242 7111
Fax: 0113 242 7171

Contact Helen Wynn-Jones or Simon Lindrea on 0171 628 8400 or evenings 0181 924 3575. Confidential Fax 0171 628 9001
Email address: Gar-Rob@demcon.co.uk

THE CAYMAN ISLANDS GOVERNMENT

invites applications for the post of:
CROWN COUNSEL

The Cayman Islands are a British Dependency in the West Indies located 480 miles south of Miami. They have a population of 30,000 and one of the highest living standards in the Caribbean.

Applicants should be barristers or solicitors or possesses a Commonwealth attorney qualification and have a minimum of five years practical experience in civil litigation with a commercial bias.

The successful applicant will be a member of the Attorney General's Chambers and will have the conduct of civil litigation involving both Government departments and statutory corporations. Advocacy will be required together with the ability to draft pleadings and prepare written advice.

Salary will be in the range of C\$42,654 to C\$56,924 per annum tax free (C\$1.00 = US\$1.20) plus a 15% supplement paid monthly with salary. Benefits include air passages and medical care. Appointment will be on a two year contract.

Application form, job description and general recruitment information are available from:

The Cayman Islands Government Office, 6 Arlington Street, London SW1A 1RE.
Telephone: 0171 491 7779

Deadline for receipt of applications is 23 January.

SOLICITOR - CITY CENTRE COMMERCIAL/GEN/PROPERTY

Up to 4 years exp for a top City firm. Must have good degree and experience in commercial/property law. Excellent salary and benefits. Ref: T25268

OFFICE ADMIN

JUNIOR CITY SOLS - TO £22,500
Highly motivated and experienced office administrator in law firm for gen. admin. duties. Excellent salary and benefits. Ref: T25268

RESIDENTIAL CONVEYANCER

minimum 5 years experience, Solicitor, Legal Executive or Licensed Conveyancer required by long established, but forward looking central London private client firm.

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Late bills law would hurt small companies

By BRIAN COLLETT

A LAW that would allow interest to be charged on bills that are paid late would damage small business, says a new study. Attempts are being made to persuade legislators to give businesses a statutory right to add interest to late payments.

The Forum of Private Business regards slow payment as the biggest obstacle to small business development and has lobbied for a legal right to interest.

Ian Peters, head of National Westminster Bank's small business services, is also making the case at the European Commission round table on small enterprises.

The stark contrast is in the findings of a study from the credit management research group of Bradford University's management centre. The study found that credit was part of small business common practice and that the larger companies would benefit most from a statutory right to interest.

Professor Nick Wilson, the study team leader, whose chair at Bradford is sponsored by the Institute of Credit Management, said: "The smaller businesses we looked at were very reliant on their credit. When we asked companies who were paying them late, it was predominantly other small companies."

Large companies, however, have the resources to build late-payment penalties into their systems and would gain from a statutory right. They are also more able to settle their bills on time. "The instrument would not be advantageous to the people who need it most," said Professor Wilson.

He found it worrying that organisations that were working for small enterprises insisted on the legislation. Instead, proper financing was needed, possibly more venture capital, to put business on a surer footing and speed up payment. Professor Wilson said: "The main problem is that smaller businesses are starved of long-term credit. It is not a surprise that they are stuck in a hole."

The Bradford team is conducting another study of credit and small business and is due to report either this month or next.

Beavering away at imports from the dining table

Mary Wilson visits a couple whose lives were transformed by a relative's present

When Sarah Akin-Smith saw the present from her sister — a highly polished cast aluminium beaver — she hardly imagined that a couple of years later she would be selling them in their hundreds to stores such as Harrods, John Lewis and Liberty.

She said: "I was so taken by the sculpture that I contacted the Canadian company and offered to become their exclusive UK distributor. James, my husband, had his own business. He helped a bit, but basically I ran the company from our dining room in Fulham, west London, for the first two years."

"Life was fairly fraught at the beginning. We originally saw it as a sideline. We had a target to pay the first lot of school fees and get a holiday out of it. We never envisaged that the business would take off as it has."

Most people have to battle to have their products accepted by big stores, but the Akin-Smiths, who live in Dorset, seem to have fallen on their feet. "My first contact with John Lewis was to ring up a buyer, tell her what I had and send a catalogue. She was so excited, she rang back the day she received it and put in an order," she said.

They think they have been so successful because they had never been in retailing and so could offer a fresh, even naive approach. "We just loved the product and I have become friends with all the buyers I deal with," said Mrs Akin-Smith.

A year ago, a friend of a friend, the sales director of a Hong Kong porcelain company, arrived on the doorstep. "I thought it was a social call, but she arrived, armed with photographs of their plates and stayed for an hour and a half. While I looked at the photographs, she changed my baby's nappy."

Mrs Akin-Smith was asked if she could sell them here and a deal was struck. The china is hand-painted with an unusual amount of detail and has ten coats of lacquer giving depth and body to the finish. "I



Sarah and James Akin-Smith, whose range of giftware is now sold in several top London stores

gave her some ideas about designs and we had to Westernise them quite a bit, but they are more efficient than any European company. In all the thousands of plates, we have never had a piece of china broken, they are all packed so well," she added.

Sixty per cent of the turnover of Sarah Akin-Smith — which is also the name of the business — is now the porcelain, the remainder the aluminium ware. The corporate

side is burgeoning, too, with Zurich Insurance and Pinnacle Insurance, for example, ordering items in their thousands for promotions or corporate gifts.

The first year turnover was £3,000, the next £50,000 and this year it will be well into six figures, "and it could easily double or treble, with just a few orders in the pipeline taking off," said Mr Akin-Smith. But for all this, they intend to keep the company small. They

work six days a week and several evenings. A sister-in-law has the space and time to run the storage and distribution of the business in Northamptonshire, and they do the rest. "We still rope in packers from the family. But we do not want to expand and start paying large salaries. The bulk of the business is done by fax and phone, we never leave our mobile behind, even when we take the children for a walk on the beach."

Asian business pressed to get a new image and go for growth

By VIOLET JOHNSTONE

BRITAIN'S Asian business community is being encouraged to go for growth and shed its image of the family-run corner shop. More than 50 per cent of Britain's independent retail outlets are owned by Asians, but research shows many are failing to adopt more profitable trading patterns and to enlarge their business.

Suhail Aziz, managing director of Brettonwood Partnership, a successful Asian-led international management consultancy, says: "We have the inclination, the urge, to run our own business, but we must lift our sights to the mainstream and to the new global opportunities — and Britain must maximise on the potential of its Asian community."

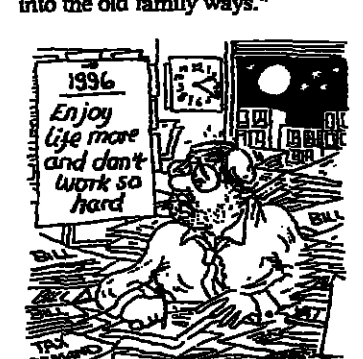
On the initiative of Mr Aziz, a series of symposiums, aimed at small and medium-sized Asian enterprises, are being held around Britain with three main objectives: to increase awareness of practical help available from local agencies, such as training and enterprise councils and government departments; to enable successful Asians to tell their stories and act as role models; and to highlight opportunities in the UK, the single European market and emerging central and East European markets. In 1996, symposiums are to be held in Blackburn, east London, Birmingham, Leicester and Peterborough. The events are partly sponsored by the Government.

While the Asian community is diverse, it has many common traits. These include a capacity for hard work and strong family culture. The latter can bring constraints: a wife or brother or nephew may not be the best person for the job. In research

for the University of Central England, Dr Moulder Ram found that in many cases the harmonious family enterprise was a myth. He says: "Often, autocratic male bosses are evident."

In a study in Birmingham he conducted, only two out of 15 businesses were "break-out contenders" who showed entrepreneurial motivation, had genuine growth aspirations, wanted to upgrade products or develop new ones, paid attention to human resources or were willing to consider relocating.

One of the two exceptions was in engineering, where the owner had worked in a large organisation and knew how to delegate and buy management skills; the other was a business run by two women manufacturing top-quality ethnic foods. Young generation Asians are most likely to break out, but cultural ties remain strong. One researcher said: "Even those who get a business administration master's degree are often sucked back into the old family ways."



"I've already broken my new year's resolution."

More than 60 per cent of small businesses believe Britain's economy is in decline or not recovering, according to the Office for World Quarterly Business Survey. That is double the number a year ago. The survey found that fewer firms were reporting sales increases or creating jobs.

Support for innovative small and medium-sized businesses is one of four priorities to help to reduce unemployment in the European Community set out in the second report of the European

Commission's Competitiveness Advisory Group.

Requests for loans, grants and sources of funds have been among the more common inquiries at Business Link City Partners which covers the City, Hackney and Islington.

Colin Barnett, operations manager at Business Link Gloucester,

is promoted to general manager. He spent 33 years in senior roles in banking and managed operations at the country's enterprise agency before joining Business Link when it was set up 12 months ago. The one-stop shop has received more than 8,000 inquiries this year.

A litigation support panel has been formed by the UK 200 Group of chartered accountants. Lawyers

acting for small businesses in such cases as contract disputes, fraud and personal injury can call in an expert member of the panel for financial opinions. Assessments of business or earnings losses can also be requested.

The chamber of commerce in Kingston upon Thames, southwest London, is offering a free day's business counselling, worth £250,

to members. An extra day's counselling in a subsequent year will be offered at a rate of about £30 plus VAT. The chamber is planning similar services for members on information technology and market research.

Only one in ten women who runs a business works fewer than 50 hours a week, a survey by the Forum of Private Business says. The survey reports that some women put in between 60 and 80 hours, and two thirds work weekends and bank holidays.

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Invitation to Tender

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IPPF's Arab World Region, incorporating fourteen countries within the region, has signed an agreement with the European Community for the supply and distribution of contraceptives to Algeria - one of the fourteen countries.

IPPF hereby invites sealed bids from contraceptive manufacturers of EC member countries and Algerian manufacturers. The invitation to tender consists of conditions for supply contracts financed by the European Economic Community and a technical annex. Interested eligible bidders may obtain a complete set of bidding documents by submitting a written request to:

Mr. Tim McLeod, International Planned Parenthood Federation, Arab World Regional Office, Regent's College, Inner Circle, Regent's Park, London, NW1 4NS, United Kingdom.

Requests for a complete set of bidding documents can only be made until 12 January 1996. Subsequent bids must be received at the above address on or before 5.00 p.m. London time, on 12 February 1996. Bids will be opened at 10.00 a.m. on 13 February 1996.

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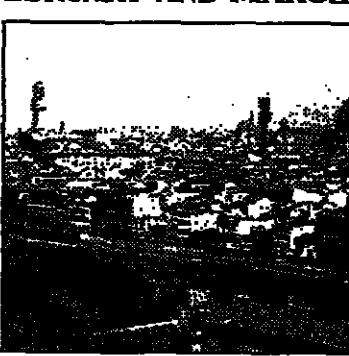
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THM

Market in gilt-edged repos opens for business

By JANET BUSH
ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

THE new market in gilt-edged "repos" begins today, with great hopes at the Bank of England of new dynamism in the British government bond market, greater liquidity and, therefore, lower borrowing costs for the Government.

The Bank announced in February that it was setting up a market in gilt repos, bringing the British govern-

ment bond market up to date with other, highly successful markets such as the Treasury bond market in America. Sterling has rallied, in the admittedly thin trading period between Christmas and New Year, partly traders say, because of additional interest among foreign investors in the British gilt market ahead of the new repo system.

Other leading foreign bond markets already operate repo systems and have a higher proportion of

overseas investment in government bonds than the British market. The Treasury estimates that it could eventually save £25 million a year in public spending for every one basis point off gilt yields.

A repo is the sale of a bond with an agreement to repurchase it at a fixed price and time in the future. In effect, one party lends a certain amount of gilts to the other in return for cash. The cash a player gets in return for gilts can be used to finance trading in

other kinds of instruments. As things stand, holders of gilts can lend gilts in return for a fee but, unless they are authorised gilt-edged market-makers, they are not allowed to borrow stock and therefore take out short positions in the market. In the new market, this facility will be available to institutional investors.

The innovation of the new gilt repo market will, it is hoped, provide not only more liquidity for investors in British government bonds but a

more flexible instrument for traders in different financial instruments.

With a much larger than expected forecast for the public sector borrowing requirement next year, the Bank is under ever greater pressure to make the gilt market attractive to investors.

In the Budget, the Chancellor forecast a PSBR of £22.5 billion for the forthcoming tax year compared with £16 billion predicted in the Treasury's summer forecast.

Businesses expecting bumpy start to new year

By PHILIP PANGALOS AND JANET BUSH

BRITISH businesses remain cautious on prospects and are braced for a bumpy ride as the harsh economic climate continues to restrict profit growth, and gloomy forecasts predict a slowdown in exports and growth.

A survey by Lloyds Bank says that businesses are finding it difficult to accept and adapt to a low inflation climate, with growth below expectations and an increase in cashflow difficulties sapping their confidence.

The twice-yearly survey, which polled more than 2,000 businesses in November and December, shows that many were disappointed by slower than expected growth in order books, prompting slower prof-

it growth in 1995. As a result, business confidence is at its lowest since the Lloyds survey began in 1992.

A confidence index, based on expectations for order books, sales and profitability for the next six months, was eight points lower than six months ago. In addition, for the first time since the survey began, there has been an increase in those reporting cashflow problems and a slowdown in export orders.

The survey showed a growth in order books, with 43 per cent of companies reporting higher orders, compared to 17 per cent reporting lower orders. However, there were fewer companies reporting higher orders, and more reporting a fall in orders. The construction and retail sectors saw the slowest growth in order books, while manufacturing and hotels and catering reported a boom period.

Michael Riding, director of commercial banking at Lloyds Bank, said: "Although businesses say they feel less confident than six months ago... order books are actually continuing to grow, although at a lower rate than at the peak of the cycle in 1994."

However, Mr Riding added: "While they are still experiencing growth, they are having difficulty in coming to terms with managing a low inflation economy. This, coupled with failed growth expectations, has made them somewhat pessimistic, possibly unnecessarily."

Meanwhile, Cambridge Econometrics expects British growth to slow to around 2.5 per cent this year, compared with about 2.75 per cent in 1995, despite a modest acceleration in consumer spending. The private forecasters said that spending should pick up a little this year and then grow more strongly in 1997 in response to larger tax cuts than most assume will happen in next year's Budget. But there will be a weaker contribution to growth from net trade as world economic activity slows and British imports recover from the unusually slow rate of growth early in 1995.

Cambridge Econometrics assumes that investment will pick up this year on the expectation that projects under the Government's Private Finance Initiative will find much of the gap left by cuts in public capital spending.

Daiwa Bank plans for US plea bargaining

By OUR CITY STAFF

JAPAN'S scandal-hit Daiwa Bank plans to plea bargain with US federal authorities next month over the 24 counts of fraud filed against it, the *Asahi Shimbun* reported yesterday.

The bank hopes to bring the case to a settlement by the end of March, when it does its books for fiscal 1995, the newspaper quoted a Daiwa official as saying.

It also quoted a senior official of Sumitomo Bank, another leading Japanese commercial bank, as saying that it planned to start talks with Daiwa in April at the earliest on a possible merger after the conclusion of the plea bargaining.

In November, the US Federal Reserve expelled Daiwa Bank from the United States for allegedly trying to disguise \$1.1 billion in losses due to fraudulent US Treasury bond trading by a trader at its New York branch. Sumitomo has agreed to take over the US operations of Daiwa and hinted at the possibility of a merger between the two banks.

Asahi Shimbun said that Daiwa Bank was expected to plead not guilty to the fraud charges, in its documents to be submitted to US regulators on January 8.



The New York exchange in Wall Street was the only market to outperform UK equities

UK pension funds surge to enjoy a vintage year

By MARTIN BARROW

UK PENSION funds surged ahead in 1995, with annual returns of 19 per cent reflecting strong advances in equities and bonds.

Funds recovered strongly from their poor showing in 1994, according to the preliminary annual survey by the WM Company, tracking the performance of more than 80 per cent of the UK pension fund market. Despite the setback in 1994, pension funds have averaged more than 15 per cent each year compared to retail price inflation of about 3 per cent. Over 20 years, average returns have exceeded inflation by about 7 per cent.

UK equities provided a return of 24 per cent, a figure exceeded only by the United States, where equities recorded returns of 34 per cent. The 1995 average return from Japanese equities of less than 2 per cent highlighted the recent roller coaster behaviour of the Japanese market.

However, over a five-year period, UK equities, with returns of more than 16 per cent, have been beaten by every leading overseas equity region with the exception of Japan. WM calculates: Europe returned 17 per cent, North America 20 per cent and the Pacific, excluding Japan, 27 per cent. Japan trailed badly at 11 per cent.

Falling worldwide interest rates fuelled the performance by bonds. Returns on UK bonds of 15 per cent were overshadowed by foreign competition, with overseas bonds seeing returns of 21 per cent.

Property, a star performer in 1994, recorded a disappointing return of 5 per cent. WM said hedging activity also increased in 1995, with managers varying their exposure during the course of the year. "This was particularly apparent in the Japanese market, with many managers hedging between one third and two thirds of their yen exposure," said Peter Warrington, a director of WM.

Locker faces fight over Pentre

By MARTIN BARROW

THOMAS Locker Holdings, the engineering company, faces growing opposition to the proposed reverse takeover by Pentre Group.

John Carr, the largest single shareholder in Thomas Locker with almost 23 per cent of the ordinary voting stock, is calling on other investors to vote against the £7.5 million purchase of privately-owned Pentre at an extraordinary meeting on January 10. Thom-

as Locker is capitalised at £3 million.

Pentre, established in 1988, manufactures reels, drums and specialised machinery for the wire and cable industry. If the deal goes ahead, Philip Gartside, the chairman, will become chief executive of the enlarged Thomas Locker, and Michael Seymour will be managing director, the post he holds in Pentre.

However, Mr Carr is advis-

ing shareholders to reject the proposal. He says that the acquisition overvalues Pentre and undervalues Thomas Locker and will involve change of control without payment of a bid premium. Thomas Locker has net cash, but Pentre is burdened with heavy borrowing, the consequence of its acquisition-driven strategy, Mr Carr says. Finally, he claims that the transaction costs are high and

that the deal would link two businesses that do not fit.

Mr Carr, who is advised by KPMG Manchester, emerged as Thomas Locker's largest single investor in May after buying shares from three relatives of the founder. He is also opposing the terms of the proposed enfranchisement of Locker's "A" ordinary shares, claiming that investors are not being adequately compensated for dilution of voting rights.

Gilts exceed expectations

TOTAL returns from gilts in calendar 1995 (allowing for inflation) were in the top quartile of those recorded over the past 77 years. This was not the expectation at the start of the year. Then, consensus forecasts expected gilt yields to be broadly unchanged over the 12-month period. They also expected inflation to average 3.3 per cent and a PSBR for the fiscal year of £21 billion.

The inflation outcome has been virtually spot on this expectation. A higher PSBR can be accounted for by economic growth undershooting expectations by 0.8 per cent.

It is therefore difficult to account for this performance, looking at the main domestic economic factors. A more convincing explanation lies overseas, for it is in Germany and particularly the US that bond performances have been much better than expected. It is also here that economic growth proved to be much weaker than forecasters envisaged a year ago.

The net result has been strong performances from all bond markets, but the spread of UK yields relative to those elsewhere has tended to widen. The surprise factors in the UK were clearly not as great as those on the Continent or in other Anglo economies.

This is itself a surprise, since more of an emphasis is being placed on the impact that demographic factors are having on government finances. The potential consequences to government

deficits of having unfunded pension schemes was well illustrated in an OECD analysis published last summer. The United Kingdom's position is extremely favourable since we have tackled this particular problem by encouraging private-sector pension provisions.

Even though only half the population is covered by these schemes, the projections for future budget deficits in the UK are considerably more favourable than in most other OECD countries. Why has the gilt market not yet reflected

GILT-EDGED

this relative advantage? The main answer is that it has been preoccupied with concerns about the current budget deficit (especially in the run up to the Budget). This is understandable.

At the start of this decade, the underlying or cyclically adjusted budget deficit was approaching levels not seen since the mid-1970s. Although the overall deficit reduced through the 1980s (recording a surplus during the economic boom of the late Eighties), the underlying picture was one of deterioration. Hence by the start of this decade, we were faced with a fiscal position that was as great a concern for the current administration as the one faced by Labour politicians two decades ago.

On both occasions, fiscal policy had to

be put into reverse, and the past three budgets have had one thing in common, namely, aiming to restore the underlying budget deficit to a more sustainable position. On current trends, this structural deficit should be down to 2.5 per cent of GDP in 1996. This represents considerable progress from three years earlier when an underlying deficit of 6 per cent was recorded. It also represented a reassurance that political pressure to produce exceptional tax cuts was resisted in November's Budget.

However, the projected deficit is still higher than those expected for the US and Germany next year, and still a long way from the norm of the 1950s, when the underlying deficit was in balance. The relevance of this last observation lies with the fact that the average inflation rate in the 1950s was almost the same as that recorded so far in the 1990s. The underlying deficits, however, are very different.

Expectations of further progress are also influenced by the outcome of the next election. Labour politicians are keen to emphasise their desire to pursue credible fiscal policies, but markets still require a risk premium to reflect their concern. The net result is that it seems unlikely that much progress will be made in the months ahead to reduce the spread of gilt yields over other leading nations.

MICHAEL HUGHES
Barclays de Zotte Wedd

Indian telecoms setback

INDIA'S efforts to privatise the telephone system suffered another setback yesterday when a second round of tenders to provide basic telecom services were received from private joint-venture firms for only five of the 13

states on offer. The six companies submitting bids with their Indian partners were Moscow Telecom, Bell Atlantic and Nynex Corp of the United States, Bell Canada, Set Corp of Italy and NTT of Japan.

CHANGE ON WEEK

THE POUND

US dollar
1.5572 (+0.0157)
German mark
2.2299 (+0.0097)
Exchange index
83.1 (+0.1)

Bank of England official close (4pm)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 share
2690.1 (+29.6)
FT-SE 100
2689.3 (+31.0)
New York Dow Jones
5117.12 (+19.15)
Tokyo Nikkei Avege
19868.15 (+123.73)

TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia \$	2.17	2.01
Austria Sch	16.89	15.19
Belgium Fr	48.77	44.47
Canada \$	2.215	2.058
Cyprus Cyp£	0.747	0.682
Denmark Kr	9.24	8.44
Finland Mkk	7.33	6.88
France Fr	8.03	7.39
Germany Dm	2.38	2.17
Greece Dr	389.00	364.00
Hong Kong \$	12.52	11.82
Ireland Pt	1.02	0.94
Israel Shk	5.2900	4.6100
Italy Lira	2563.00	2408.00
Japan Yen	173.70	157.70
Malta	0.582	0.537
Netherlands Gld	2.847	2.417
New Zealand \$	2.51	2.29
Norway Kr	10.44	9.84
Portugal Esc	244.00	225.50
S Africa Rd	ref.	5.40
Spain Ptas	195.50	182.50
Sweden Kr	10.97	10.17
Switzerland Fr	1.92	1.74
Turkey Lira	ref.	91103.0
USA \$	1.846	1.516

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Labour puts energy into power reform

Christine Buckley on the opposition party's widest-ranging policy review

Over the next few days, letters from a range of industrialists and academics will begin to drop on the office doormat of Margaret Beckett, Labour's Trade and Industry Secretary.

The letters will be replies to invitations to join one of Labour's widest-ranging, and arguably one of its most important, policy reviews.

Labour has begun work on a shake-up of the regulatory framework governing Britain's energy. With the input of a variety of industry specialists, the party is starting to sculpt what it will implement.

Orchestrating the task is John Battle, the recently appointed Shadow Minister for Energy. He is almost evangelical about the challenge that lies before him believing the present regulatory structures governing electricity, gas and water to be in a mess and to be incomprehensible to the consumers who buy the services.

Regulation so far has failed the customer. Certainly it has on price but also in other ways. In the summer we had the farce of the electricity distribution review. In winter

Ofwat has largely stood back and watched things happen, saying that it couldn't intervene. We've had a host of complaints about gas. All in all we've not had great satisfaction. The regulators seem to be stuck on the price formula. They may be struggling to maintain a fair price formula but meanwhile we are just not getting the customer back-up that we had before."

Regulation, says Mr Battle, has proven a scrappy affair that has not responded effectively to the takeover frenzy which has transformed the industry in the space of a few months. He condemns the referral of the bids by National Power and PowerGen to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission while other takeovers such as those by North West Water of Norweb and that by Welsh Water for South Wales Electricity received no scrutiny in spite of the fears from consumer groups over one company providing two essential services.

"All of the initial bids should have been referred so that the ground rules for

takeovers in the utilities were established. While PowerGen and National Power are out of the frame having a dialogue with the Monopolies and Mergers Commission we can easily see more American companies moving in. The answer could lie in having just one regulator served by a panel of advisors. Such an arrangement would address some of the problems of fragmentation and be a suitable response to a converging energy market. There are no easy answers to power regulation which demands a risky balance of satisfying customers with lower bills and better service; serving growing dividends for shareholders; and delivering a decent tax return to the Government. But there is a growing urgency for answers.

Labour will hardly have time to wipe its feet on the doormat if it enters government in 1997 before full competition in the energy market erupts the following year. The big bang in 1998 will plunge power into a wholly different world as internationalisation of the market gathers pace. Mr Battle is not saying who over the next

few weeks will start to provide those answers when the regulation review gets fully under way.

It is certain, however, that a key figure will be Dr Dieter Helm, the Oxford University energy strategist who provoked the anger of Professor Stephen Littlechild, the electricity regulator, when he declared that regulation was in crisis. He has repeatedly criticised the pricing formula clamped on utilities which caps prices at a level related to inflation — RPI-X.

A punishing windfall tax, that was much vaunted several months ago, may now not be implemented or at least applied in a mild fashion. Labour is mindful of the overseas earnings capacity of the utilities and the benefits they could have on the balance of payments.

Mr Battle adds: "We would want to support that. They would be bringing foreign currency and other benefits back to Britain. They would be vital and dynamic international businesses and we wouldn't want to do anything to damage that."

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 24

BOBACHEE

(b) A male cook. Corruption of the Hindi *bawarchi*. "And every night and morning! The Bobachee he shall kill! The sempiternal Moorhye! And we'll all have a grill."

GOMPA

(c) A Tibetan temple or monastery. An adaptation of the Tibetan *gompa* a solitary place or hermitage. "A gompa, one of those religious establishments whose walls housed more than a fifth of Tibetan males."

DUNNAMANY

(a) A colloquial form of rendering "I don't know how many" or "I don't know how much." Rudyard Kipling, *Puck*, 1906: "The Pharisees just about flowed down the beach to the boat, / dunnamany of 'em."

BURSICULATE

(b) Resembling a purse or pouch, bursiform, purse-shaped. From the Latin *bursicula* diminutive of *bursa* a purse. "You are a fine figure of a man, sir. But what I admire about you most is your bursiculateness."

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

1 Rxe7! Kxe7 (1... Rxd1 2 Rxe4! 2 Re1 and White emerges two pawns ahead with an easy win.

informative:

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9.5%	EAR 9.9%
Cheque Account and Premier Cheque Account rate for unauthorised borrowing	
22.8%	EAR 26.3%

High Interest Savings Account			
Interest	Gross % p.a.	Gross EAR	Net % p.a.
£1-2,499	3.75	3.82	2.81
£2,500-24,999	4.00	4.07	3.00
£25,000-99,999	4.75	4.85	3.52
£100,000+	5.50	5.64	4.13

60 Day Account			
Interest	Gross % p.a.	Gross EAR	Net % p.a.
£1-2,499	0.50	0.50	0.38
£2,500-24,999	0.50	0.50	0.38
£25,000-99,999	0.50	0.50	0.38
£100,000+	0.50	0.50	0.38

TESSA			
Interest	Gross % p.a.	Gross EAR	Net % p.a.
All credit balances	6.75	6.75	5.10

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This morning, Sir Rocco Forte will announce the final elements in a surprisingly impressive defence against the £3.2 billion takeover bid mounted by Granada's Gerry Robinson. The outcome will still depend on how far Granada is prepared to raise its offer and what its own shareholders think of that. When Mr Robinson launched his offensive, however, he surely did not expect so vigorous a response. Forte's plans would give immediate returns to patient shareholders, concentrate the business on hotels, improve finances, give up low-return investments that owed more to family pride than hard-headed judgment and accelerate restructuring of the hotel business.

Whatever the outcome, that package shows the value that takeover bids can bring shareholders. Sir Rocco might have done most of this anyway. But the steady progress of years has been crammed into a programme drawn up and presented in weeks. Who knows whether such drastic action would be best for the long-term future of the business, or whether speed is always a virtue. If investors demand radical economic efficiency, however, the ability of outsiders to challenge incumbent management is plainly valuable.

Even Wall Street, home of the takeover bid, was impressed by the merger boom that hit London in 1995. Swaths of industry — such as pharmaceuticals, investment banking and electricity supply — are being restructured at an amazing

Takeover addicts thrill to another fun-packed year



pace. On the Continent or in Japan, such speed is rarely possible, except via state intervention or financial collapse. In Britain, companies worth more than £40 billion changed hands in a single year through market-driven takeovers. There will probably be as many bids in 1996, even if the total value is lower. Likely industries include water, food, retail banking, insurance, leisure and construction.

Relatively few, however, will revolve round the issues of management at the centre of the Granada-Forte affair. More will be vehicles for restructuring industries in change. Even more will be driven by purely financial motives — tax gains or conglomerate buying companies with low-rated profits. But most takeovers will simply be a low-risk form of expansion.

budgeted, or find that the economic recovery was petering out. Easier to expand by buying another business. Sure enough, takeovers boomed while capital investment disappointed, fulfilling the prophecy that growth would peter out.

The main objection to the Anglo-Saxon takeover system is that bids now substitute for risk-taking investment. If the colour of the Government changes, that will influence its policies. Hunkering for continental consensus will go together with promoting capital investment as a "good thing".

Many company bosses will therefore press ahead with their more

controversial takeover plans this year, while the free-market going is good. Oddly, however, the continental approach has already been given a fillip from an unlikely quarter: Ian Byatt, the water regulator.

Water monopolies are tipped as a target for takeovers this year. This morning will see the debut of United Utilities, formed by merging Norweb with North West Water. Welsh Water has agreed a similar takeover of Swalec, its equivalent electricity utility. Mr Byatt wants to ensure, however, that his charges do not become minor parts of faceless conglomerates. He is pressing the Office of Fair Trading to make Welsh Water keep a separate stock market quotation for Dwr Cymru, its water utility. He has, somewhat optimistically, asked United Utilities to do the same after the event.

Mr Byatt's motives are evidently varied. He fears it might be easier for smart conglomerate financiers to pull the wool over his eyes. More fundamentally, he reckons that top managers spend far too much time on other activities, to the detriment of their water businesses. If the water utilities had to be separate quoted companies, they would have

to have independent boards and separate management that focused on its own business. This thinking strikes at the heart of the Anglo-Saxon concept of takeovers, of integrated management and cash flows, of bosses who crack the whip and allocate resources to divisional managers round their empire.

In retrospect, it might have been better for consumers if water and electricity companies had been made permanently takeover proof, avoiding the rush since their golden shares expired. Peer competition proved so good a spur that none of the utility takeovers has yet featured critiques of "poor" management. Mr Byatt cannot put the clock back and rewrite the privatisation regime. Separate-quoted companies with outstanding 25 per cent public holdings would not work in the British context. Investors rightly have owning minority stakes, so they are lowly rated. And the British are far more concerned than are relaxed continentalers with the legal and accounting niceties of inter-company dealings and control.

Continental industrial empires that rely on pyramids of control and leave minority investors in the cold are obsolete. We don't want them here. Most of the benefits now associated with takeovers might nonetheless be achieved far more cheaply and accountably by powerful shareholders, looser federations of businesses, joint companies or asset swaps. The takeover bid is the most over-used tool in business.

Eric Reguly on the secret mission of Charles Lamb Allen, the Granada TV chief

The man with Forte in his sights

For the past two years, Charles Lamb Allen has held two jobs, one official and one secret. The official one was chief executive of Granada Television; the other was heading the undercover team that was examining Forte in minute detail.

Forte, the international hotels and restaurants group pieced together by Lord Forte and now run by his son, Sir Rocco, had struck Allen as a possible acquisition target. Through Sutcliffe Catering, a Granada subsidiary, he had dealings with Forte's catering side and wasn't impressed. "It gave us the feeling it was not a well run company," Allen said.

He and Gerry Robinson, Forte's chief executive, thought they could run Forte better themselves and they may get their wish. On November 21, Granada launched a £3.3 billion hostile offer for Forte. Barring a counterbid, Granada will know by the third week of January whether it has won. Allen, who replaces Robinson as Granada's chief executive in March, is already making plans. He has prepared a list of senior Forte managers he wants to retain to help him to run the company. "There are a couple of people there that could be lead players," he said.

Running Granada and Forte, whose interests would

range from London Weekend Television and a TV rentals business to the George V hotel in Paris and Happy Eater roadside greasy spoons, sounds intimidating. But the combined group would not be nearly as big as it is today.

Lazard Brothers, Granada's financial adviser, is lining up buyers for the bits of Granada, such as the Savoy group and other "trophy" hotels, that Granada considers vanity operations. It said it would sell about £500 million of Forte assets and there is speculation that Allen and Robinson are preparing to unload much more.

The very heart of Forte, the luxury Meridien hotel chain, may top that list. Meridien, acquired by Sir Rocco last year for £280 million, has 53 hotels in 35 countries making it the group's top international brand. Granada, however, is not keen on them because the hotel management-contract business in the high end of the market has become exceedingly competitive. Meridien, in spite of its far flung portfolio, is a bit-player by international standards and may have to go. Allen won't say how extensive the disposal programme will be. But he said he plans "to move forward quickly" in reshaping the company if Granada wins the takeover battle. He has had two years to plan his moves and is astounded that Granada's designs on



Charles Lamb Allen of Granada TV headed the undercover team that examined Forte in minute detail

Forte remained confidential for so long. Initially, a core group of three was assigned to gathering intelligence. Late last winter, it expanded to 12 people and by May the decision had been made to go ahead with the bid. Allen explained that Granada might have moved faster if it hadn't taken time out in 1994 to buy LWT for £770 million and integrate it with Granada TV.

Allen figures that several hundred people — Granada insiders, financial advisers, bankers, accountants and the like — knew about the upcoming bid by the autumn and still no word leaked out. Forte suspected that Granada might be ready to make a move but thought it might go after Pearson, the owner of the *Financial Times* and Penguin books. It was stunned that its target was a hotel company instead of a media concern.

Why did Granada wait until November? Allen claims the company wanted to announce the takeover attempt on the same day as its annual results. Launching the bid late in the year had another advantage, he said. "It would give us a few days off over Christmas so we could have a break."

Indeed, after a month of

insults, allegations and general mud-slinging, Granada and Forte declared a ceasefire. Things will be relatively quiet until today when Forte publishes its final defence document. Granada will then have one week to revise its bid. Merrill Lynch, the investment firm, said: "The contest looks evenly balanced at present. An increased offer is likely."

A Granada victory would cap a remarkable career for Allen, who turns 39 on Thursday. He is a fair bit younger than his peers and, even more remarkably, has no TV experience. Yet he runs the biggest TV business in the country and hangs around with the likes of Cilla Black, Michael Barrymore and the cast of *Coronation Street*.

The son of a hairdresser, he was born in Lanark. His father died when Allen was 14 and his mother supported the family by taking a job as a waitress in a British Steel dining room. British Steel seemed young Charles's destiny as well. Instead of going to university, he joined the company as an accountant trainee.

His salvation was the breakdown of his car. "That was a key motivation for me," he said. "I needed a new car, but

couldn't afford one, so I went to a company that offered me one." That company was Gallagher, the London cigarette maker. Three years later, in 1982, he joined Grand Metropolitan in London and landed in its international division, based in Saudi Arabia.

For more than four years, he travelled the Middle and Far East. "At one point, I had 38 different nationalities working for me," he said. "I learned how to deal with different people and different cultures. People have different logics."

It was in the Middle East that he met Gerry Robinson, who was then chief executive of Grand Metropolitan International Services. The Irishman hired Allen to run Grand Met's Compass division and they have been inseparable ever since.

The two led Compass's management buyout in 1988 and its flotation, which made them both millionaires, a year later. In 1991, Robinson brought him into Granada. Television was a whole new environment for Allen and the creative minds at Granada were terrified that an accountant boss would be disastrous. They were sure he would take

his cue from Robinson, who had pushed David Plowright, the well-liked Granada TV boss, out the door a few months earlier.

Allen, affable and energetic, proved them wrong. He did not do what most new bosses do. Instead of bringing in new managers, he kept most of the existing team in place and switched around their jobs in the belief that employees who are not performing well are poorly directed and not necessarily incompetent.

Taking a genuine interest in TV production also won him kudos. Allen likes to read scripts. He went through the pilot *Cracker* scripts and decided that the show, as disturbing and violent as it was, could be a hit.

He has been well rewarded for his successes. Allen, who is not married, has a townhouse just off Kensington High Street and a 40ft diesel cruiser *Brigadoon*. He does not consider himself a workaholic. Allen has proved remarkably adept at managing different businesses and does not expect many problems in taking on a hotel company if Granada wins Forte. "I'm not intimidated by this. I see this as a real opportunity," he said.

Uneconomical tunnel vision

Consequences. Radio 4, 7.20pm.

I do not think this four-part series will please politicians cursed with an inflated opinion of their social or economic know-how. Future topics to be given rough treatment include the poll tax and care in the community. Tonight it is the masterminds behind the Channel Tunnel who come in for some stick. What began as the dream of enthusiasts is now a fact of life. Peter Jay suggests how, as an economic fact of life, the tunnel's accounts could now be looking healthier. He is not the only one to say tonight that the big mistake was to rely heavily on the private sector to finance the project. It was an understatement, he says, that cried out for the public sector to be its sponsor and, ultimately, its financier.

Crimescapes. Radio 4 FM, 10.00am.

Amsterdam and Jarwille van de Wetering are the first city and resident crime writer to be linked in Leslie Forbes's series. Amsterdam would seem to be a safe haven for wrongdoers. Wetering says that everything is tolerated in the city provided nobody else is hurt. Presumably, that is why improvisation is permitted on a church's carillon. Amsterdam has another claim to distinction. Ask a dog what the nation's crime prospects are and he will bark his reply. Wetering does not believe people are good or bad. All offenders, he says, eventually "calm down". I wonder how he squares this philosophy with writing crime novels. Peter Davalbe

RADIO 1

FM Stereo. 6.30am Chris Evans 9.00 Kevin Greening 12.00 Jo Whiley, Inc. at 12.30pm Newsbeat and 1.15 The Net 2.00 Nicky Campbell 4.00 Mark Goodier 6.30-6.45 Newsbeat and 6.15 The Net 7.00 Evening Session with Steve Lamacz 9.00 Cing Film with Mark Kennedy and Wendy Lloyd 10.00 Mark Radcliffe, Inc. from Manchester 12.00 Wendy Lloyd, Inc. at 12.15am The Net

RADIO 2

FM Stereo. 6.00am Sarah Kennedy 7.30 Wogan 9.15 On Screen 9.30 Crumb 11.30 Jimmy Young 2.00pm Debbie McGee 3.30 Ed Stewart 5.00 John Dunn 5.30 Answers Please 7.00 Hayes 7.30 Newsbeat 8.30 News 9.00 The Other Side (S) 9.00 Turn Down the Lamp, an Irish miscellany of stories and songs 10.00 Explorer 2 10.30 The Jamieson 12.00am Adrian Franchi Inc. at 1.30am Pause for Thought 3.00 Steve Madden Inc. at 3.30am Pause for Thought

RADIO 5 LIVE

5.00am Morning Reports 6.00 The Breakfast Programme 6.35 The Mega Zone, Inc. 9.45 DIY Hall, 10.35a Euronews, 11.00 Daily News 12.00 Midday with Mark 2.00a Russcos on Five 4.00 John Inverdale Nationwide, with news sport and travel news 5.45a Entertainment News 7.00 News Extra 7.35 The Tuesday Match: Newcastle v Arsenal and 7.45a Chelsea in the FA Premier League 11.05a News Talk 11.00 Night Extra 12.05am After Hours 2.05a Up All Night

TALK RADIO

6.00am Sandy Weir 7.00 Simon Bates 10.00 Jonathan King 12.00 Tommy Boyd 2.00pm Andy Robson 4.00 Scott Chisholm and Lower Turner 7.00 Sean Bolger 8.00 Muz Dee 10.00 Sean White 1.00-4.00am Ian Collins

RADIO 3

6.00am On Air: Rachmaninov (Sleeveless in the Man, Vespers); Brahms (Cello Sonata in F, Op 99); Debussy (Marche concertino); Bach (Toccata in G); Thomas (Lily of the Valley); Prokofiev (The Storm); Bartok (Cello Concerto); 9.00 Morning Collected with Paul Gambaccini, Bach (Orchestral Suite No 2 in B minor); Rachmaninov (Piano Concerto No 2 in C minor); 10.00 Musical Encounters, Bach (Sei Lob und Preis); Debussy (Syring); Mozart (Coco Concerto); Schubert (Nacht und Träume); 10.30 André Previn conducts Prokofiev (Violin Concerto No 1); Kyung-Wha Chung; 10.50; 1.15a Schubert (An den Mond, Auf dem See); Mozart (Piano); Bach and Brahms (Chaconne); Schumann (Symphony No 4: Chamber Orchestra of Europe); 12.00 Composer of the Week: Elgar. Parry (Gon talks to the conductor Richard Hickox about Elgar's choral works and the influence of his Rannam Catholic background. Serenade, Wend of Youth Suite No 1; Oh, my warriors, Caracassus; The Dream of Gerontius, excerpts; Judas scene from The Apostles; The Sun goes down, The Kingdom (S); 1.00pm News 1.05 The BBC Orchestra. The BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra under Pinchas Steinberg performs Strauss (Kaiserwalzer); Schubert (Symphony No 8 in B minor, Unfinished); Beethoven (Symphony No 7 in A); 2.15 French Songs by Bizet, Saint-Saëns, Duparc, Fauré and Dutilleul, by John Nier and Jeff Cohen; 3.30 The BBC Orchestra. The BBC Philharmonic under Van Pascal Tortelier performs Rimsky-Korsakov (Suite), Christmas Eve in a Prologue (Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini); Prokofiev (Suite, Leukenberg (Suite), Tchaikovsky (Capriccio for Piano); 5.00 The Music Machine: Children of Our Time. Jeremy Sumner summarises the Centenary of the First World War, with music by Parry, Elgar, Gurney, German, Williams, Bridge, Vaughan Williams and Howells (S); 7.30a Amsterdam Master Festival. Mahler's Symphony No 10; Dalcroze (The End of the Road); 9.20 Cultural Baggage: Gurney. An exploration of the significance and connotations of cultural phenomena (Gurney); 9.40 Paul Winstanley. String Quartets in C, Op 10 No 5; in E flat, Op 15 No 3; in E flat, Op 45; 10.45 The Shellac Show. Jeremy Nicholas with music from the 1930s and 1940s; 11.30-12.00a Music Revisited. Jonathan Keates introduces a concert marking the 450th anniversary of the death of William Law.

RADIO 4

5.55am Shipping Forecast (LW only) 6.00 News 6.10a Ferring Today 6.25a Prayer for the Day 6.30 Today, Inc. 6.30, 7.00, 7.30, 8.00, 8.30 News 6.55, 7.55a Weather 7.25, 8.25a Sport 7.45a Thought for the Day 8.40a Harvest of the Cold Months, by Elizabeth David (S) 8.55a Weather 9.00-10.00, 11.00-4.00pm Test Match Special (LW only). South Africa v England in the first day of the Test from Cape Town 9.00 News (FM only) 9.05a Call Nick Ross: 0171-580 4444 (FM only). Topical phone-in 10.00-10.30a News: Crisescapes (FM only). See Choice 10.00 Daily Service (LW only) 10.15a Children's BBC Radio 4 (LW only). The Fighter by Nicole Jempray. Read by James Nesbitt 10.30a Women's Hour. Jenni Murray meets Betty Parsons, whose techniques for managing pregnancy and labour have transformed childbirth. Serial: Lions and Liquorice 11.30a Medicine Now, with Geoff Watts 12.00 News: You and Yours 12.25pm The Heritage Quiz, with Sue MacGregor, Christopher Cook, Hunter Davies, Philipa Gregory and Mervyn Dymally 12.55a Weather 1.00 The World at One (FM, LW) 1.40 The Archers 1.55a Shipping Forecast 2.00a News: The Priest Hole. Alan Owen's last play is set in Speke Hall, Liverpool, and was commissioned to celebrate the centenary of the National Trust 2.30a News: Records. Jeremy Nicholas explores the record collection of Robert Hardy 3.00 News: The Lionheart Slit, with David Brogan 4.00 News 4.05 Kaleidoscope. Paul Vaughan on the relationship between culture and evolution 4.45a Family Feelings: The Use of irony, wit and parody by Deborah Moggach (S) 5.00 PM 5.50a Shipping Forecast 5.55a Weather 6.00a Six O'Clock News 6.30a Cook's Tour. Ian Hargreave explores the life and laughs of the comedian Peter Cook (S) 7.00a News: The Archers 7.25a Crisescapes. See Choice 8.00a Science Now (S) 8.30a Reading Aloud. All Parents Speak by Paul Baines (S) 9.00a In Touch. Peter White updates the stories that have affected visually impaired people in 1995, and reports on successful campaigns 9.30a Kaleidoscope (S) 9.55a Weather 10.00a The World Tonight, with Owen Bennett Jones 10.45a Book at Bedtime: The Harpole Report, by J.L. Carr. Alistair McGowan reads the second of ten parts 11.00a Meditations. People and events that have dominated the media in 1995 (S) 11.30a Derek Cooper's Necessary Pleasures (S) 12.00a News. Inc. 12.27am Weather 12.30a The Late Book: Miss Smith's Feeling for Snow, by Peter Hodge (12/15) 12.45a Shipping Forecast 1.00a World Service

FREQUENCY GUIDE. RADIO 1. FM 97.6-99.8. RADIO 2. FM 80.0-90.2. RADIO 3. FM 90.2-92.4. RADIO 4. FM 92.4-94.8. LW 158, MW 188 (12.45-5.55am). CLASSIC FM. FM 100-102. VIRGIN RADIO. FM 105.8, MW 1197, 1215. TALK RADIO. UK, MW 1053, 1059. Television Rosemary Smith and Susan Thomson

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THISTLE HOTELS

The taxman cometh

I do not want to spoil anybody's new year, but tax expert Geoff Edwards of Grant Thornton tells me that the Inland Revenue is scheduled to investigate 38,500 income taxpayers and at least 4,200 companies before this tax year is out.

It will also be "looking at" 3 per cent of all self employed, 42 per cent of all larger companies and 15 per cent of all other companies in its hunt for undeclared income. Last tax year, its investigations netted a cool £6.1 billion.

Edwards adds that with the introduction of self assessment next tax year, the scope for investigations will widen.

Margin winner

SCHRODER VENTURES has picked Martin Sorrell of WPP Group as the winner of a case of Champagne for his reply to their pre-Christmas questionnaire sent to chiefs of

Action man

BRENDAN "Have a Go Joe" Russell today becomes the youngest person ever to join the board of merchant bank Singer & Friedlander. Russell

The Times 1000 Companies

asked "What would you really like for Christmas?" Sorrell quipped: "Another 1 per cent improvement in WPP's margins and bowing Clive Lloyd - again." Cedric Brown of British Gas opted for "a white Christmas", while Jeremy Marshall of De La Rue, the banknote printer, went for "a strong dose of hyperinflation". Schroder Ventures is sending £1,000 to the charity Children in Need to mark its appreciation for a postbag of replies.

joined the bank's corporate finance department in 1989, and although only 33, he has already had an action-packed life. He has spent nearly five years in the Territorial Army and has a passion for diving. Last year he made more than 50 dives in some of the greatest diving locations, although perhaps his greatest pleasure — from where his nickname springs — was at Waterloo station. There, in the middle of the concourse, Russell decided to "have a go", costing to the aid of a T.Rack manager in pursuit of a fleeing and arm-flailing thief. His action was praised by the judge at the subsequent trial, who ordered that Russell be given a £100 reward.

COLIN CAMPBELL

Oh my fur and whiskers, I smell red herring

Dramatically, at least, 1996 will go down as the year that began not with a bang but with a miaow. "The cat said she had to die," spat the curiously named Spinnys towards the end of last night's *The Ruth Rendell Mystery: Heartstones* (TV). Oh yes? Bit slow with the tin-opener, so why not just push her off the cathedral scaffolding? I think not.

Actually, the fact that one teenage daughter was talking to psychopathic cats came as quite a relief. I had been under the impression that her sister, Elvira, was turning into one. "You're growing frowny," shrieked the housekeeper, who had just seen a plate of sandwiches tossed away by a strangely hairy forearm. "You need help." She needed help? What about us? We had been watching this for an hour-and-a-half and it was getting sillier by the minute. And yet it had all started so

promisingly. The cathedral close was in mourning, the Crossland family more or less united in grief following the death of wife and mother, Anne. The cat, as I understand it, was not implicated ("always very punctual with my meals was Anne"). Canon Crossland's wife had succumbed to cancer, although there was the definite suggestion that her demise might have been accelerated by her husband and family doctor acting in cahoots.

Certainly that was what the melodramatically-inclined Elvira believed. "What are you saying, Elvira?" asked her younger and impressionable sister. "I'm saying... that Luke and Dr Trewynne poisoned her." With dialogue like that, I'm not surprised Spinnys turned to the cat for company.

As I understand it, that and much of the subsequent plot turned out to be teenage delusion, the exploration of which is an

interesting idea, but not necessarily on a Bank Holiday Monday night. The principal dramatic device employed was to make us believe that it was Elvira who was responsible for the second death, that of Mary the medievalist, who had supplanted her mother — and indeed her — in her father's affections.

Elvira made a convincing red herring. There was her name for starters — when did you last come across an Elvira who was a goody? (Mind you, if we had known that Spinnys was short for Despinus... What else? She was anorexic (hence, apparently, the fur), nursed suicidal tendencies, and when not playing sadly on the piano, enjoyed translating Virgil. She also harboured a precocious knowledge of things pharmacological. How many teenagers of your acquaintance can hold forth authoritatively about the dosing lev-

REVIEW



Matthew Bond

els of dimorphism? What — most of them? I see.

Despite the essential silliness of an over-litely put, Piers Haggard, the director, secured two splendid performances from his juvenile stars, Emily Mortimer as Elvira and from her own real-life daughter, Daisy Haggard, as Spinnys. Anthony Andrews played their father, Luke, apparently borrowing both performance and

haircut from James Fox's Dean in *The Choir*. Why is it, I wonder, that the Church of England is suddenly getting all the romantic leading men?

Earlier, the BBC had given the clearest indication yet that, after the success of *Pride and Prejudice* and *The Buccaneers*, it is going to be bosoms with everything in 1996. Still, Red Riding Hood *mit* cleavage was a bit of a surprise. But then this was Ronald Dahl's Little Red Riding Hood (BBC).

From the flames and playing cards of the opening title, to the time slot presumably ruled out the dancing naked lady — underwired is one thing, unclad quite another, it was clear that we were in for another of the author's tales of the unexpected. So it proved, with Dahl providing all manner of twists and turns until the moment when Little Red Riding Hood (Julie Walters, who also played Grandma) was facing certain

death at the paws of Wolfe... when "with a smile, one eyelid flickers, she whips a pistol from her knickers".

The woodland sets were beautifully created, as was the furry cast using the animatronic gadgetry that seems to be all the rage — you know, eyes that move, ears that waggle. From Weller-Moore's steeled London Philharmonic through Paul Patterson's wonderful score and was rewarded with the drive on part of Little Red Riding Hood's chauffeur. My only criticism was that the piece seemed stretched at 45 minutes and that the ponderous early scenes will have confused as many adults as it will children.

For reasons best known to itself, BBC decided that the new year should be marked with music, a decision that met with varying degrees of success. *Burt Bacharach... This is Now* was a melodic delight and a highly

enjoyable reminder of the great songs that, largely working in tandem with Hal David, Bacharach turned out in the 1960s. With his music now back in vogue, there was no shortage of stars queuing up to pay homage, including Noel Gallagher of Oasis who seems to have appeared on every musical tribute programme I have seen in the last three months. Still, at least we discovered where he got his hair cut from. He was a dool ringer for Cilla Black circa 1963, struggling to find what it was all about with this Alfie. "Alfie? You call your dog Alfie."

By contrast, the best thing about *Arena: The Burger and The King* was its title. Elvis Presley was a huge amount of junk food and died a very fat man — end of story as far as I am concerned, and no amount of fancy editing and funny riffs were going to change my mind. Fried peanut butter and banana sandwiches? Yuck.

BBC1

- 6.00am Business Breakfast (70482)
- 7.00am BBC Breakfast News (92405598)
- 9.05am Global Gatecrash: India (s) (4757918)
- 9.30am Stone Protectors (s) (45145)
- 10.00am News (Coastal) (7443983)
- 10.05am Can't Cook, Won't Cook (s) (8543024)
- 10.30am Good Morning With Anne and Nick (s) (85879)
- 12.00pm News (Coastal) regional news and weather (8769005)
- 12.05pm Pebble Mill: Guests are Laila Dean and Morgan Freeman. (s) (910111)
- 12.50pm Regional News (13622666) 1.00pm One O'Clock News (88802)
- 1.30pm Neighbours (Coastal) (s) (64784192)
- 1.50pm Barbecue Project Phoenix: With George Peppard and Stefanie Powers (2076937)
- 3.05pm Timelockers Out (s) (5144821)
- 3.30pm Ants In Your Pants (s) (1448192) 3.50pm ChuckleVision (s) (1468856) 4.10pm Free Willy (Coastal) (s) (6463798) 4.30pm Take Two (Coastal) (s) (8408821)
- 5.00pm Newsround (Coastal) (4873043)



Terrence Hardiman, lessons in tyranny (5.10pm)

- 5.10pm The Demon Headmaster (Coastal) (s) (7024734)
- 5.35pm Neighbours (s) (Coastal) (s) (361208)
- 6.00pm Six O'Clock News (Coastal) and weather (79)
- 6.30pm Regional News magazines (31)
- 7.00pm Holiday: Jill Dando checks out a package holiday to Kerala, southern India. Richard Wilson enjoys what Mexico has to offer, and Paul Gogarty reports from Halkidiki in Greece. Plus Money Don in a lighthouse in Llandudno (Coastal) (s) (3821)
- 7.30pm EastEnders (Coastal) (s) (43)
- 8.00pm Great Ormond Street: Stories of the young patients of Great Ormond Street Hospital. Three-year-old Joshua Whyman is the only person in Britain diagnosed with PNP, a very rare immune deficiency, and his only chance is a bone marrow transplant (Coastal) (s) (8689)
- 8.30pm News: Need of Nn. Sit-com about grandpa who is reluctantly playing parents again. With Penelope Keith and William Gaunt (Coastal) (s) (8378)
- 9.00pm Nine O'Clock News (Coastal) regional news and weather (2314)
- 9.30pm The Peacock Spring: Concluding the drama from Purner Godden's novel, set in India in 1959. With Peter Egan and Jennifer Hall. (Coastal) (s) (87898)
- 11.00pm The Mean Season (1985) starring Kurt Russell and Mariel Hemingway. Thriller based on Leon Piedmont's novel which explores the themes of news creation and manipulation. A Miami journalist strikes up an uneasy partnership with a serial killer who calls him after each murder he commits. As the journalist's involvement with the overall story increases, so does the danger to him and his girlfriend. Directed by Philip Barcos (Coastal) (s) (30043)
- 12.35am Weather (6715154)

BBC2

- 7.00am Breakfast News (Signed) (6733111)
- 7.15pm Lassie (s) (3664289) 7.40pm Albert the 5th Musketeer (s) (Coastal) (7911444) 8.05pm Teenage Mutant Hero Turtles (s) (Coastal) (2389549)
- 8.35pm FILM: The Sheepman (1958) starring Glenn Ford, Shirley MacLaine and Leslie Nielsen. Tongue-in-cheek western in which a sheep rancher runs into trouble when he is victimised by a local big shot. Directed by George Marshall (8545588)
- 10.00pm Playdays (s) (8642395)
- 10.25pm FILM: Johnny Angel (1945, b/w) starring George Raft, John Hooton and Hoagy Carmichael. Directed by Edwin L. Mann (6227734)
- 11.50pm The Fugitive (b/w). (Coastal) (806208)
- 12.30pm Working Lunch (45163) 1.00pm Spot (s) (7307528) 1.05pm Junior Jungle (s) (2853728) 1.20pm On The Throne (s) (177666)
- 2.00pm 1996 World Professional Darts Championship from the Lakeside Country Club. Includes at 3.00 and 3.55 News and weather (578688)
- 6.00pm Fresh Prince of Bel Air. Teen comedy (s) (33227)
- 6.25pm Newsbreak High. Drama series about the staff and students of an Australian inner-city high school. (Coastal) (s) (238918)
- 7.10pm The Ren and Stimpy Show. A double episode of the cult cartoon series. (Coastal) (s) (916753)
- 7.30pm Local Heroes. (Coastal) (s) (85)



Mickey Clarke, Liz Barclay, Tony Morris (8.00pm)

- 8.00pm Pound for Pound (8181)
- 8.30pm Food and Drink: Sustenance magazine. (Coastal) (s) (8918)
- 9.00pm FILM: Victim of Innocence (1990) starring Cheryl Ladd, Anthony John Danon and Melissa Chan. A drama about the pressures on a Vietnam veteran and his wife when he brings his Vietnamese daughter to America. Directed by Mel Dornick (1985)
- 10.30pm Newsnight (Coastal) (435937)
- 11.15pm 1996 World Professional Darts Championship Highlights (s) (541531)
- 12.15am Weather (5306319)
- 12.20pm FILM: Milou in May (1989) starring Michel Piccoli, Mimi-Mou, Michel Duchaussoy and Harriet Walter. French comedy set in 1989 about a 60-year-old man living a peaceful life in the country with his mother. But her death causes him much pain. It also signals the arrival of his rapacious family. Directed by Louis Malle (80241). Ends at 2.05

The numbers next to each TV programme listing are Video PlusCodes. These can be used with video recorders to find out more about a programme. To use a Video PlusCode, enter the code on the Video PlusCode card which is included in the programme. The code is also listed in the Video PlusCode book which is available from the BBC. The code is also listed in the Video PlusCode book which is available from the BBC. The code is also listed in the Video PlusCode book which is available from the BBC.

CHOICE



Adam Hart-Davis on the pioneer trail (BBC2, 7.30pm)

Local Heroes BBC2, 7.30pm
A lively little series on pioneers of science and invention owes much to the extrovert personality of its presenter, Adam Hart-Davis. With his grey hair and spectacles he looks like a boffin, if a slightly dotty one, while his gaudy pink and yellow cycling gear ensures he will never be lost in a crowd. He first greets us from Clifton Suspension Bridge and looks us by not talking about Bristol. Instead he enthuses over the bright ideas of one Sarah Guppy, including an all-purpose breakfast cooker that makes tea and toast and boils an egg. Funny that it never caught on. More seriously, Hart-Davis salutes Edward Jenner, the Gloucestershire doctor who invented vaccination. For those who do not know the story, it is a surprising one.

Pound For Pound BBC1, 8.00pm
Providing much the same service as Radio 4's *Money Box*, though in a more popular and flamboyant style, *Pound For Pound* is a new series on personal finance. Some may find that the style gets in the way of the substance and some of the items are more for entertainment than instruction. An example is giving £100 each to a stockbroker and to a trio of sixth formers and challenging them to double it in five weeks. Against that, there is a solid investigation into the extended warranties that stores are so keen to offer us on electrical goods. The advice is to be wary. And as the first tax-free Tassas mature, the programme asks whether the child born five years ago of John Major's only Budget should be loved or abandoned.

The Demon Headmaster BBC1, 5.10pm
A twice-weekly drama for children is set in a school for their parents may have creepy echoes of a totalitarian state. It is played by Terrence Hardiman, the power-mad head uses his powers of hypnosis to command absolute obedience. Not for nothing is the school motto: "Forge a single will out of the will of many." But this junior version of 1984, adapted by one of the author's, Helen Crosswell, from the novels of another, Gillian Cross, is more entertaining and less oppressive than it sounds. The focus is on the resistance to the tyrant, led by a small and heroic band of pupils including two brothers and their newly adopted sister. The trio's kindly Mum is played by Tessa Peake-Jones of *Only Fools and Horses*.

Outside Edge BBC1, 8.30pm
After an above-average Christmas special in Corfu, Richard Harris's sitcom is back home pitching stumps for a new series. The setting may be a cricket club but newcomers who have the game can be assured that what goes on off the field is as important as what happens on it. What Harris gives us, essentially, is another variation on the theme of the badly behaved, charmingly rebellious and particularly on Saturday afternoons. The awful Roger and his mousy wife, brilliantly played by Robert Daws and Brenda Blethyn, are comedy creations of the first rank and the support is formidable. A real cricketer, Godfrey Evans, turns up tonight to open the new pavilion. You can save there is many a hiccup. Peter Waymark

CARLTON

- 6.00pm GMTV (2200008)
- 9.25pm Win, Lose Or Draw (s) (4745802)
- 9.55pm London Today (Teletext) (6624444)
- 10.00pm The Time... The Place (s) (1433640)
- 10.35pm This Morning (5763455) 12.20pm Regional News and weather (6783288)
- 12.30pm ITN News and weather (Teletext) (6082111)
- 12.55pm Home and Away (Teletext) (6067802)
- 1.25pm Chain Letters: Game show with Vince Henderson (Teletext) (3242647)
- 1.55pm A Country Practice (s) (6478647) 2.20pm Vanessa (Teletext) (s) (1849235) 2.50pm Capital Woman (s) (4228221) 3.20pm News (Teletext) (2671355) 3.25pm London Today (Teletext) (2670686)
- 3.30pm The Magic House Learning through fun (s) (2494753) 3.40pm Tots TV: Lost Button (s) (7085376) 3.50pm Twinkle The Dream Being (7074200) 4.00pm Budge the Little Helicopter (s) (2214677) 4.15pm Santo Buglio: Exceptional cartoon series (9515668) 4.40pm Warner Brothers Cartoon (6570888) 4.45pm Bad Influence (s) (949173)
- 5.10pm After 5 With Caron Keating (Teletext) (6559378)
- 5.40pm ITN News and weather (154005)
- 5.55pm Your Show: Viewers air their views (525050)
- 6.00pm Home and Away (s) (Teletext) (47)
- 6.30pm London Tonight (Teletext) (27)
- 6.50pm Emmerdale (Teletext) (6889)
- 8.00pm The Bill: Call Waiting A series of hoax telephone calls takes its toll on the stability of a family (Teletext) (s) (4937)

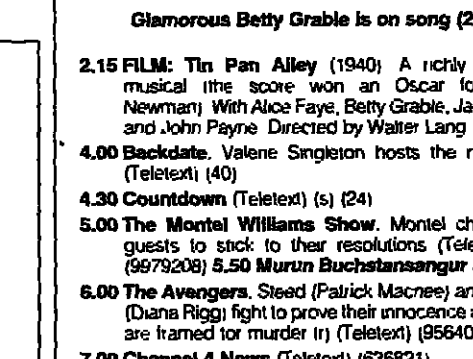


Godfrey Evans and Brenda Blethyn (8.30pm)

- 8.30pm Outside Edge (Teletext) (s) (344)
- 9.00pm FILM: Lethal Weapon (1987) starring Mel Gibson and Danny Glover. An undercover policeman, disturbed by the death of his wife, teams up with a stable family man partner to bust up a drugs ring run by a murderous gang of CIA-trained killers. Directed by Richard Donner (Teletext) Continues after the news (5753)
- 10.00pm ITN News at Ten and weather (Teletext) (71937) 10.30pm London Tonight (17758)
- 10.40pm FILM: Lethal Weapon continued (Teletext) (9304184)
- 11.45pm FILM: The Last Dragon (1985) A martial arts adventure starring Taisak, directed by Michael Schultz (93082)
- 1.45am Endless League Extra (7905203)
- 2.30pm FILM: A Jolly Bad Fellow (1964) Satirical drama about a brilliant but unhinged professor who develops a toxin that sends his victims into fits of laughter and then kills them without trace. Starring Les McKeen, Janet Munro, Maxine Audley and Duncan MacFarlane. Directed by Don Chaffey (85777)
- 4.00pm Cowboys In Skirts — The Making Of Rob Roy (s) (26154) 4.30pm Dead Men's Tales: To the Last Gasps. Reconstructors of disasters and marvellous escapes. (85369406)
- 4.55pm The Time... The Place (s) (1052319)
- 5.30pm ITN Morning News (34796). Ends at 6.00

CHANNEL 4

- 6.35am Think Tank (s) (5373173)
- 7.00pm The Big Breakfast (81753)
- 9.00pm Saved by the Bell: The New Class (s) (4774665)
- 9.25pm Babylon 5 (Teletext) (s) (7137662)
- 10.20pm California Dreams (s) (1037918)
- 10.45pm Biker Mice from Mars (7360005)
- 11.10pm Mork and Mindy (s) (s) (860288)
- 11.40pm Dog City (s) (5815956)
- 12.00pm Creepy Crawlers (s) (3652918) 12.20pm Terrylaters (s) (3652918) 12.30pm Sesame Street (50376) 1.30pm Ovide (7657598)
- 1.55pm Notes: A young classical musician strikes up an unlikely friendship (64796337)



Glamorous Betty Grable is on song (2.15pm)

- 2.15pm FILM: Tin Pan Alley (1940) A richly melodic musical the score won an Oscar for Alfred Newman. With Alice Faye, Betty Grable, Jack Oakie and John Payne. Directed by Walter Lang (387550)
- 4.00pm Backstage: Valente Singleton hosts the new quiz (Teletext) (40)
- 4.30pm Countdown (Teletext) (s) (24)
- 5.00pm The Montel Williams Show: Montel challenges guests to stick to their resolutions (Teletext) (s) (979208) 5.50pm Murrin Buchstansangur (670963)
- 6.00pm The Avengers: Steed (Patrick Macnee) and Emma (Diana Rigg) fight to prove their innocence after they are framed for murder (s) (Teletext) (95640)
- 7.00pm Channel 4 News (Teletext) (636821)
- 7.55pm The Slot (953444)
- 8.00pm Wild Britain: The bramble, sometimes known as the mulberry bush in East Anglia, provides food and shelter for a variety of wildlife including snails, slugs, caterpillars, small mammals, birds and bees. With Roll Harris (s) (Teletext) (s) (2579)
- 8.30pm Brookside: Bev throws a party for Ron, Jacqui has an unexpected visitor and Gary plans a trip (Teletext) (s) (4314)
- 9.00pm ER: American hospital drama series (s) (Teletext) (s) (3665192)
- 10.40pm Sex in a Cold Climate: Women meet for an Ann Summers party and the chance to buy goods ranging from lingerie to sex aids (s) (426289)
- 11.25pm Nurses: American black comedy. (Teletext) (485192)
- 12.00pm Naked Sport: The Big Pitch A look at the \$25 billion business of American football (s) (Teletext) (s) (48848)
- 1.00pm The World of Hammer Frankenstein films (s) (Teletext) (s) (8142)
- 1.30pm Say Hello to the Real Dr Snide: Dr Snide is Archie's cat and when things go wrong, Archie (Ralph Brown) can blame the cat. There is a problem, however — Dr Snide doesn't exist. First shown in the 4-Play season of short dramas (s) (7075574)
- 2.35pm FILM: West of the Divide (1934, b/w) Classic, early John Wayne western. Our hero joins a band of outlaws to track the man who killed his parents and kidnapped his infant brother. Directed by Robert N. Brubaker (792048). Ends at 3.35

VARIATIONS

- ANGLIA**
As London except 9.55-10.00 Anglia News and Weather (893444) 12.20pm 12.30pm Anglia News and Weather (878282) 12.55pm 1.00pm Anglia News and Weather (878282) 1.25pm 1.30pm Anglia News and Weather (878282) 1.50pm 1.55pm Anglia News and Weather (878282) 2.00pm 2.05pm Anglia News and Weather (878282) 2.10pm 2.15pm Anglia News and Weather (878282) 2.20pm 2.25pm Anglia News and Weather (878282) 2.30pm 2.35pm Anglia News and Weather (878282) 2.40pm 2.45pm Anglia News and Weather (878282) 2.50pm 2.55pm Anglia News and Weather (878282) 3.00pm 3.05pm Anglia News and Weather (878282) 3.10pm 3.15pm Anglia News and Weather (878282) 3.20pm 3.25pm Anglia News and Weather (878282) 3.30pm 3.35pm Anglia News and Weather (878282) 3.40pm 3.45pm Anglia News and Weather (878282) 3.50pm 3.55pm Anglia News and Weather (878282) 4.00pm 4.05pm Anglia News and Weather (878282) 4.10pm 4.15pm Anglia News and Weather (878282) 4.20pm 4.25pm Anglia News and Weather (878282) 4.30pm 4.35pm Anglia News and Weather 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Boxing promoter faces disqualification proceedings after four-year inquiry

DTI to seek boardroom ban on Warren



Warren: he will contest the action

By JON ASHWORTH

THE Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) is poised to start disqualification proceedings against Frank Warren, the promoter behind some of the biggest names in professional boxing. The attempt to ban Mr Warren, 43, from serving as a company director, follows similar action against Terry Venables, the England football team coach. Proceedings are due to begin next month.

The move by the DTI follows a four-year investigation, and is linked to the London Arena, the ill-fated Docklands sporting and entertainment venue that collapsed in 1991 with debts of more than £20 million. Mr Warren had a 70 per cent stake in the London Arena, and suffered substantial losses when the receivers went in. The venue reopened in 1994.

Mr Warren faces a ban of between two and 15 years if the DTI action succeeds. A similar threat faces Mr Venables, who was informed by the DTI last month that it intended to start disqualification proceedings against him. Mr Venables denied any wrongdoing, and said he would fight the action.

The London Arena, on the Isle of Dogs in east London, opened in 1989 with a concert by Duran Duran, and went on to host other big names, including Pavarotti. But the venue never lived up to expectations, and collapsed under the weight of its debts. Creditors included Landhurst Leasing, the controversial loan company that collapsed in 1992 with debts of £121 million. Landhurst exploited its links with Damon Hill, Johnny Herbert, and other names in British sport, to persuade banks to advance millions in loans.

Government inspectors discovered that six companies connected to Mr Warren received £2 million from Landhurst, including £180,000 to finance a Frank Sinatra concert at the London Arena. The arena also received more than £830,000 in loans from Landhurst.

In August 1993, Melvyn Hague, a director of Arena Developments (Europe), was banned for three years under the Company Directors Disqualification Act. Similar proceedings were reported to be under way against Mr Warren, who was a director of Arena Developments (Europe) and other associated companies. Mr Warren said he had at all times protected the interests of creditors, employees and shareholders.

The DTI investigation extended beyond the London Arena to encompass Mr Warren's wider business dealings. Mr

Warren was chairman of Rex Williams Leisure, a snack-to-video company that went into administration in 1990 owing £2.6 million. Investigators unravelled a string of disastrous deals that resulted in massive losses and write-downs.

Mr Warren was unavailable for comment yesterday, but has previously said that he would "strenuously contest" any action by the DTI. The DTI does not comment on individual cases.

In November 1989, Mr Warren was shot by an unidentified gunman outside a theatre in Barking, east London. Terry Marsh, the former boxing champion once managed by Mr Warren, was charged with attempted murder but acquitted. A long stint in hospital made it difficult for Mr Warren to devote much time to his businesses.

His was a classic rags-to-riches tale. Mr

Warren left school at 15 and worked as a porter in Smithfield Meat Market. He branched into business, renting vending machines to pubs, then fell into boxing after a friend encouraged him to bet on a fight. By the 1980s he was a millionaire.

Today, Mr Warren has 20 boxers on his books, and enjoys a profitable association with Don King, the extrovert American promoter. The pair hope to bring Frank Bruno and Mike Tyson together for a title clash in the spring.

Almost 5,000 directors have been disqualified since the Company Directors Disqualification Act came into effect in 1986. Peter Clowes, former head of Barlow Clowes, is one of only 24 people to have been barred for the maximum 15 years. Robert Miller, former head of Dunsdale Securities, received a ten-year ban in 1991.

black
white
in
colour

Labour may merge watchdogs

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY

LABOUR has launched a sweeping review that could lead to the offices of water, electricity and gas regulation being scrapped and replaced by one regulator, if the party forms the next Government.

The review, which will form a crucial part of Labour's energy policy, will begin in earnest when a group of industry specialists recruited by the shadow Trade and Industry team starts to draft a fresh regulatory framework.

John Battle, the energy spokesman, said: "It could be that we have just one regulator, but with proper back-up. It's generally agreed that regulation at the moment is fragmented." Labour has been a stern critic of the regulation of the utilities. Mr Battle said: "This will be a solid review that will stand the test of time. We need a structure robust enough to tackle the free market currents sweeping through energy."

He refused to say which of the regulators, if any, would survive if Labour implements a single regulatory structure for energy. Power reform, page 33

New Look is sold to institutions for £170m

By MARTIN BARROW

NEW LOOK, one of the UK's largest womenswear retailing chains, has been sold for up to £170 million, it was announced yesterday.

The sale of the privately owned business to institutional investors has taken place a year after the founding Singh family aborted plans for a flotation on the stock market.

The deal, signed over the weekend, realises a multi-million fortune — worth five times this week's National Lottery rollover jackpot — for a family that began the business with a single shop in the West Country in 1969.

Tom Singh and his family will receive an initial payment of £155 million in cash and shares. They will receive a further sum of up to £15 million, over the next three years, based on the performance of the company.

After completion, they will hold a 25 per cent interest in Valsar, a new company set up for the transaction by BZW Private Equity, which led the

institutional purchase, and Prudential Venture Managers, the joint underwriters.

Mr Singh, 44, and John Hanna and Gavin Aldred, his fellow executive directors of New Look, will continue to run the company. Louis Sherwood, its non-executive chairman, takes the same role with Valsar. A stock market flotation is unlikely to be considered for at least three years.

The purchase price is broadly in line with the expected valuation of the company before a flotation was aborted in November 1994.

Mr Singh opened the first New Look outlet with a £5,000 loan from his parents. The company now trades from 305 shops in the UK and 18 in France. A further 12 shops are expected to open by the end of March. New Look expects to earn profits of about £20 million in the next financial year, on sales of £200 million.

Graeme White, director of BZW Private Equity, said: "This is a very successful business and there is significant growth to go in the UK and in France. The management have developed a formula which works well with the consumer and our plan for the future is to expand the format in both countries."

The deal is a setback for the new issues market, which had hoped for a good start to 1996 after a lacklustre 1995.

New Look, which blamed adverse stock market conditions for the pulling of its flotation, said that it had given fresh consideration to a public share listing, but had decided that a sale to institutions represented a better way forward. Offers from at least two trade buyers were declined.

One remarkable aspect of the New Look story is that growth has been achieved with the recession in retailing at its worst. The company began the 1990s with about 70 shops and has more than doubled operating margins in spite of generally selling goods at a 10 per cent discount to rivals such as Dorothy Perkins and Eternity.

Mr Singh, an intensely private man, developed the first dozen or so outlets almost single-handed, collecting stock from London by van and delivering it to each shop.



Arm combat: Granada's Gerry Robinson, left, and Sir Rocco Forte wrestling for the initiative in their £3.2bn takeover battle

Forte plans put pressure on Granada to raise bid

By ERIC REGULY

GRANADA will come under additional pressure today to raise its bid for Forte with the publication of the hotel and catering group's final defence document.

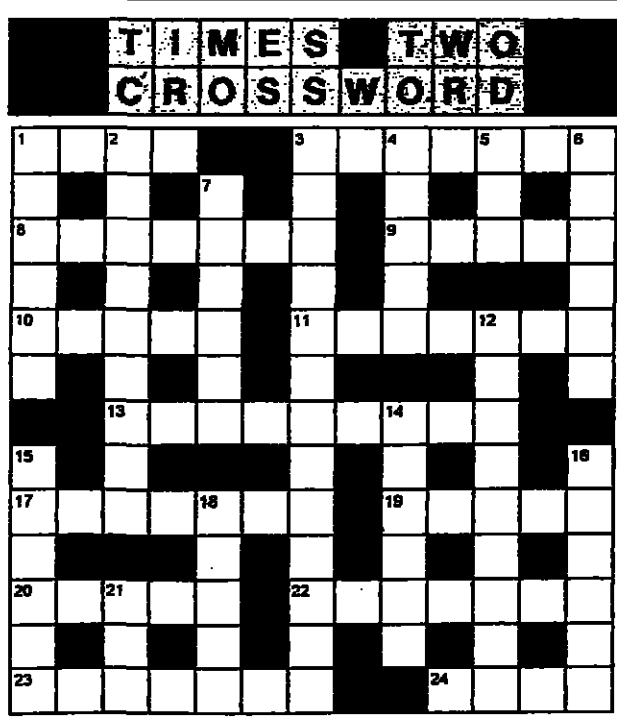
But Granada is playing down speculation that it will boost its £3.2 billion hostile offer by 10 per cent or more.

The document is expected to reveal plans for an investor loyalty package that includes a share buyback of about £500 million and an increase in the regular dividend, which has been at 7.5p since 1993, when it was cut from 9.91p. It will also assert that the group, short of its restaurants division, will report accelerated earnings growth over the next few years as the hotels sector recovers.

The City is not convinced that Granada will win Forte easily. Granada, haring a counterbid, has until next Tuesday to increase its offer.

In advance of the final defence document, Forte called again for Granada to back its claim that it could squeeze an extra £100 million in annual earnings from Forte. Granada plans to break down the figure, but will not do so until early next week because it wants to give Forte as little time as possible to challenge the scenario.

Graham Searjeant, page 34
Man with a mission, page 34



No 667

- ACROSS
- 1 The two together (4)
 - 3 Moved king to safety (7)
 - 8 Small saucepan (7)
 - 9 Allow (in) (5)
 - 10 Circus comedian (5)
 - 11 Disputes, questions (lit) (7)
 - 12 Practical skills, knock (9)
 - 17 Coarse grass for paper (7)
 - 19 (Criminal) jargon (5)
 - 20 Disinter (3,2)
 - 22 Wrong, wicked (7)
 - 23 Punishment for sin (7)
 - 24 Beginner (4)
- DOWN
- 1 Find midway point (6)
 - 2 Getting bald (4,2,3)
 - 3 Deflate pomposity (3,4,2,4)
 - 4 Character: bang foot (5)
 - 5 Hit hard: OT book (abbr.) (3)
 - 6 Excrete (6)
 - 7 Outpatient centre (6)
 - 12 Ribbed Scots hat (9)
 - 14 Scruples, reservations (6)
 - 15 Shown; delayed (4,2)
 - 16 Verdi opera after Shakespeare (6)
 - 18 N Yorks cathedral city (5)
 - 21 Information: OT book (abbr.) (3)

SOLUTION TO No 666
ACROSS: 6 Burglar alarm 7 Unixes 8 Berate 9 Noah 10 Ructions
12 Restival 16 Fish 18 Hawser 20 Throwing 21 Play the field
DOWN: 1 Brass hat 2 Elidir 3 Arabic 4 Star 5 Trison 6 Banjo
11 Informer 13 Enable 14 Wordy 15 Let off 17 Syrod 19 Syx

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London young face bleak jobs outlook, says report

By PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

MASS youth unemployment in London, leading to deepening economic and social deprivation, is now a "real danger", an economic assessment of the capital's prospects suggests.

The study says that by the end of the decade, there will be 230,000 fewer jobs in London than in 1990 — and that young people will bear the brunt of this collapse in employment because the jobs they traditionally hold are being taken by part-timers or married women returning to work, or disappearing as a result of industrial or technological change.

The study is by one of the Government's Training and Enterprise Councils, which administer training. It notes that the increase in unemployment among 16 and 17-year-olds will not show in the Government's

jobless figures because this age group is unable to claim unemployment benefit.

Solotex, the Tesc covering south London, says in its annual economic assessment that "despite improvements in school staying-on rates, mass youth unemployment in London is now a real danger". This will lead to "further concentrations of deprivation and deepening economic and social polarisation".

London and the South East, it says, experienced a deeper downturn than other regions in the recession of the early 1990s. Although growth in London has accelerated, it is expected to slow again by the end of the decade while industrial restructuring in the capital means that the "continuous haemorrhage" of manufactur-

ing employment has not been fully compensated for by a growth in service sector jobs.

Growth in employment is expected to be in sectors such as advertising, marketing and computing, with new jobs largely in administration, technical and professional occupations — not traditionally held by school-leavers. Manual and unskilled jobs are set to continue to decline.

John Howell, Solotex chief executive, is calling for "urgent action" to counter the vulnerability to unemployment of 16 and 17-year-olds. "This report highlights the need for substantial investment in training and work experience for young people — particularly in the 16 to 18 age group — to aid the transition into the world of work."

Smart card slow to catch on

By PHILIP FANGALOS

BRITAIN'S first attempt at a cashless society has been slow to catch on. But the founders of Mondex, an electronic cash system devised by National Westminster Bank, with Midland Bank and British Telecom, still hope that electronic money will find public favour in its UK trial and go national next year.

A pilot scheme for the Mondex electronic money system, which centres on a smart card with a microchip for storing electronic cash, was launched in Swindon last July. However, the public in Wiltshire, who were selected to take part in a one-year trial for Mondex, have been slow to use the card widely.

The card's chip is loaded with money through special cash dispensers or by using telephone lines to access a bank

account. The money can be transferred between cards by using a special wallet that resembles a pocket calculator. The cards are ideal for services using pay machines, such as car parks, pay phones and even buses, though Mondex sees a big market in pay-as-you-watch television and other developing technologies. Most of the big stores in Swindon have the compact Mondex machines beside all their cash tills.

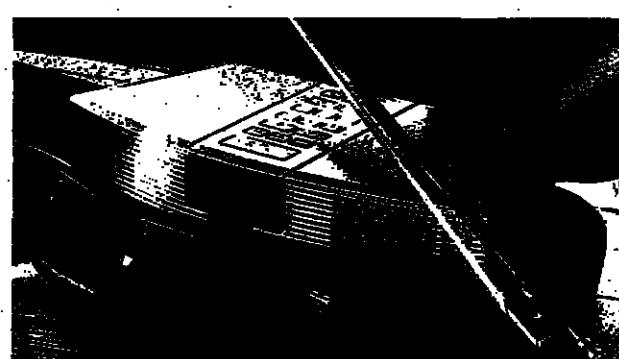
Mondex had hoped to get 40,000 of Swindon's 190,000 residents to take a card, but to date it has recruited only 9,000. It may be possible to live a normal lifestyle, cashless, in Swindon, but few have opted to do so.

Roy Pratt, chief manager of Mondex UK, remains optimistic that Mondex will

catch on, especially now that the infrastructure is in place. He said: "The introduction of electronic cash is, as much as anything, an exercise in change management and understanding people's behaviour. Not everyone adopts a new technology at the same pace."

For the moment, the Swindon trial is free to both consumers and retailers. However, from this spring, cardholders will have to pay for the service. Even a £150 monthly fee could put potential users off the smart card.

The banks and building societies would like Mondex to succeed as it costs them billions of pounds a year to handle cash. Another pilot scheme is under way in San Francisco, while trials will start in Canada and Hong Kong this summer.



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A-Z OF COSMETIC SURGERY

At the cutting edge of the beauty business

AESTHETIC plastic surgery has had a bad press. Ministers, anxious to cut the NHS bill, invariably discuss cosmetic surgery in disparaging terms and still refer to it as if its only role was to pander to conceit by attempting to give a youthful appearance to ageing faces.

Cosmetic surgery does indeed make people look younger and brighter, but by doing so may alter the lifestyle of the patients, boost their sense of wellbeing and self-esteem, and thereby improve their job opportunities, increase their interests and extend their social horizons. Cosmetic surgeons and dermatologists — whose work involves erasing the ravages of time from the contours and complexion of the face — report increasingly brisk business.

As life in the cities and professions becomes tougher and less considerate, many older people, rightly or wrongly, feel threatened by youth and want to blur the age difference. Barristers, accountants, City solicitors and financiers of both sexes have joined the beauty-conscious woman in asking for the shadows and bags to be removed from under their eyes, wrinkles to be ironed out, and sagging faces to be lifted. Men have not only been investing in products to stimulate hair growth, but have also increasingly been turning to cosmetic surgeons for hair transplants.

TECHNIQUES

TECHNIQUES in face-lifting have improved enormously in the last few years. The fear that after surgery a face would look as taut as the Duchess of Windsor's, or that, like an earlier Duchess of Marlborough, the patient might have to remain hidden from society, is now unnecessary, provided that a good surgeon is employed.

But face-lifting, even with keyhole surgery, is still very complex and requires great skill and a detailed knowledge of anatomy if the result is to be pleasing. Most scars are almost entirely hidden in the hairline — above or behind the ears — and any in front of the ears soon fade. If there is a price to pay for losing the flabby skin of the neck, the sagging jaw line and the drooping mouth, it is fortunately usually no more than bruising, or a transient numbness where a nerve has been damaged. Very occasionally the injury to the nerve causes permanent damage, and sometimes, particularly in smokers, a poor peripheral circulation leaves a wide scar which the hair cannot hide.

NOSES AND EARS

MANY patients opt for minor degrees of facial reconstruction.

Sagging jaw line, baggy eyes, flabby breasts, prominent nose? Dr Thomas Stuttford on the latest ways in which medical science can achieve a new, improved you

tion. Noses and ears cause constant anxiety. An excessively large nose can be a source of embarrassment, teasing and even bullying of children at school. Most — but not all — adult men learn to tolerate it, but for a woman it can remain a cause of misery.

Not surprisingly reshaping noses was one of the earliest challenges faced by plastic surgeons, and they have now become very proficient at it. The most common problem faced by the doctor practising rhinoplasty is dealing with a nose which is too prominent. In these cases the width of the nose has to be narrowed as well as the bridge lowered.

A flattened nose, whether from inheritance, injury or surgery, can also cause embarrassment by, for instance, making the most amiable person look like an aggressive pugilist. Augmentation rhinoplasty, the insertion of additional bone or cartilage to restore or even create a better framework, can revolutionise somebody's face and at the same time alter other people's perception of the character behind it.

But ears are operated on from the age of six onwards and are usually corrected in childhood, but there is no technical reason why the surgery cannot be performed on an adult. The procedure involves the remodelling of the cartilage in the ear but the scar is behind the ear and is not noticeable after the operation.

EYES

BAGS under the eyes and drooping eyelids are perhaps the most common complaint. Blepharoplasty is the surgeon's answer to the anxiety.

The surgeon removes surplus skin from the eyelids, tightens up the muscles, and takes away any excess fat which is deposited around the eyes. The patient then looks younger and much more alert. Financiers, male as well as female, who are bright and thrusting rather than laid back and inscrutable, frequently request blepharoplasty. Their friends find it hard to pinpoint the difference afterwards, merely remarking on how well they look. If the eyebrows droop as well, these can be hitched up by the incision of a piece of skin

above the eye and stitching. The scar, usually a fine one, is hidden in the eyebrows and the natural skin creases.

A surprising number of people are concerned about shadows around the eye; they feel that this not only looks unattractive but makes them appear permanently tired and ill.

There are three courses for excess eye shadowing. If the veins are too close to the skin, laser treatment may help but the results are often disappointing. More often there is increased pigmentation which gets darker as the patient grows older.

The tendency to excessive pigmentation is usually familial, but rather than blaming ancestors, it would be better to ask your doctor to arrange ultrapulse carbon dioxide laser treatment. Professor Nicholas Lowe of the University of California and the Cranley Clinic in London says that this procedure is usually very effective, particularly when the pigmentation is darkest on the inner side of the orbit nearest to the nose. Similar treatment with the laser is useful for removing excessive pigmentation around the mouth or the brown spots caused by acne or the damage caused to the skin by a lifetime in the sun.

Finally some shadowing is literally just that: shadows caused by loose bags under the eyes. These people would benefit from blepharoplasty.

SKIN

RESURFACING of an ageing skin can be achieved by chemical peeling agents, or by dermabrasion, in which the surface layers of the skin are mechanically worn away by an abrasive wheel. Hyperpigmentation, roughness and fine skin wrinkles can often be removed, or the creases filled out, by the use of Retinova (tretinoin), which needs to be applied daily for several months. It is not recommended for those people who have a personal history, or even a family history, of some types of malignant skin cancers, and must not be used by pregnant women.

Deeper lines and the craters left from acne need filling out with liquid collagen injections. These are not everlasting and need to be repeated comparatively often. A face-lift will

tighten up the skin of the face but tends to leave the deep vertical lines which form around the mouth, and collagen injections are necessary to disguise these.

BREASTS

NOT ONLY faces but also bodies can be remodelled. Breasts can be tightened and augmented, and the laxity which so often follows childbirth can be corrected. Some women worry that their breasts are smaller than average, and they feel others think of them as being less feminine than they would wish. Although the medical evidence has largely exonerated silicone implants, doubts as to their safety remain, so most implants are now made of either soya oil or saline.

Breast reduction in appropriate cases can be very successful and transform a younger woman's social life. Patients need to discuss the operation, and their feelings about it, in detail with the surgeon before it is undertaken, for sometimes anxiety over breast size can conceal deep psychological concerns. Afterwards the breast is scarred, but many women prefer a few neat scars to disproportionately large bosoms which they see as a source of embarrassment.

STOMACH

A FLABBY stomach inevitably causes distress and cannot always be hidden by clothes. Surgeons can remove excessive skin by an operation known as abdominoplasty, but, as with breast reduction, it leaves scars. The scars after abdominoplasty run from above both hips right across the lower abdomen, with the further small scar around the umbilicus, which has to be repositioned in its former natural spot. When there is an excessive roll of fat — the traditional spare tyre — modification by abdominoplasty allows the tissue to be cut away en masse. Liposuction can be used to remove smaller collections of fat.

If your concern is excessive wrinkling, thinning hair, a sagging jaw line, baggy eyes, flabby breasts, protruberant belly, receding chin, or just an ageing face, 1996 could, with the help of a member of the British Association of Aesthetic Plastic Surgeons, be very different.

The association produces booklets for doctors and the general public about the advantages and, perhaps even more importantly, the disadvantages and possible side-effects of the various operations performed by its members. General practitioners will be able to advise on the particular skills of any of the surgeons listed in the membership booklet, discuss the desirability of surgery, and arrange for referral to the appropriate specialist.

• The British Association of Aesthetic Plastic Surgeons, The Royal College of Surgeons, 34-43 Lincoln's Inn Fields, London WC2A 3PN



Even with keyhole surgery, face-lifting is still very complex and requires great skill and anatomical knowledge

Men demand the body beautiful

Jeremy Laurance on a boom in male surgery

Increasing demand for cosmetic surgery for men is extending to breast implants to improve the appearance of the male chest. The prospect of adding an effortless extra inch or two to the pectoral area is enticing men to the clinics that have, up to now, catered mainly for women.

The Harley Medical Group, which runs four clinics around the country, says a fifth of its clients were men in 1993 but the proportion rose to a third in 1994 and increased again last year.

The most popular male operation is a rhinoplasty — surgery on the nose, usually to reduce its size or smooth out a bump on the bridge. Breast reduction among men who have acquired excess flab on their chests is also frequently requested. This is achieved by liposuction, which involves inserting a needle and sucking out excess fat.

However, breast augmentation to swell the pectoral muscles is in growing demand. Diane Hanson, manager of the Harley Medical clinic in Birmingham, says that nationally the group is doing two such operations a week. "About half of them are bodybuilders making the finishing touches," she says. "They expose their bodies more than most of us and are conscious of the way they look. Many have a good physique, but there may be one part of their body where they feel they are lacking."

The operation costs £3,500, the same

ment. When I undressed, it just didn't look right.

Before surgery he had a 46-inch chest and a 30-inch waist but was embarrassed about his appearance. "It stopped me going on holiday," he says. "I wouldn't take my shirt off for anybody. Even my parents don't know about this. I was quite a skinny lad until I took up bodybuilding six years ago. Everything else developed except this — I have big shoulders, big arms, a big back and legs. It made me miserable."

At five feet eight inches tall, he now weighs 15 stone, up from 9½ stone. But despite a punishing exercise regime, his pectorals refused to develop. He has previously had liposuction to keep his waist trim. He says the implant operation was worth the money. "I am not bothered what others think about me. It is the way I feel about myself that matters."

Unlike augmentation, breast reduction is cheaper for men — at between £2,000 and £2,500 — than for women, who are charged £4,000 to £4,500. The operation is more complex in women because of the presence of the mammary gland. "It is much more intricate and involves a lot more surgical tailoring," Ms Hanson says.

The Harley Medical Group's clinics perform more than five times more breast reductions than augmentations on men. Among women, breast augmentation is more popular.



Bodybuilders seek pectoral appeal

as for a woman, and involves the insertion of silicone implants from one to five centimetres thick behind the pectoral muscles, to throw them forward.

In men the implants are inserted through an incision under the arm, where the hair will conceal the scar. In women, who are more likely to shave under their arms, the incision is usually made at the base of the breast.

Stuart, 29, had implants two centimetres thick inserted last November. A sales manager with a company in Birmingham, he has told no one about the operation.

"I work out three or four times a week," he says. "I have a very good physique but I lacked pectoral develop-

ment. When I undressed, it just didn't look right.

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The benefits of a dental implant

Smile, please, and say titanium

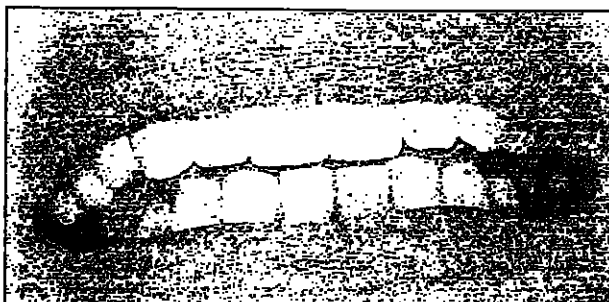
WHEN Martin Amis spent £20,000 on his teeth, in January 1995, the press went wild at his apparent profligacy. What kind of dental procedure could cost the same as a new BMW? The answer, it turned out, was implant reconstruction, one of the greatest — and yet least publicised — developments in modern cosmetic surgery.

Michael Morton, one of fewer than ten British dentists who practise the operation exclusively, says the continued low profile of dental implants is due to a lack of media interest in teeth, which has kept public awareness down, and to the fact that in Britain we still do not expect to pay for dentistry. "In America, Italy, and France," he says, "where private dental care is long established, there is much greater demand from patients." Amis, indeed, was treated in the US.

It is a remarkable operation. A titanium root — a sort

of hollow screw — is screwed into the jaw bone and site of the original root. A titanium post is then screwed into the root and protrudes through the gums into the mouth. A gold and porcelain tooth is built around it, resulting in a chopper that is as good as, if not better than, the original.

"Imagine a young person has had a cycling accident and knocked out a tooth," says Mr Morton, whose *Dental Implants — A Guide for the General Practitioner* is the only British book on the subject. "He will have four options. He can have a bridge, which involves cutting down the two adjacent teeth and damaging them permanently. He can have an adhesive false tooth, although research suggests it will come off at least once a year. Or he can have a denture, which involves a great plastic plate in the mouth for just one or two teeth. Any professional sportsman who has teeth



Implants are as good as, if not better than, the original

missing when he plays, but a full set when he is interviewed, has probably got one of these."

"An implant, however, is a preservative rather than a destructive operation, for it is shown actually to stimulate and maintain the jaw bone. If the patient subsequently breaks his jaw, it will not break at the implant point because the fusion is stronger than bone itself."

The cost of each osseointegrated implant (as opposed to earlier implants, which merely sat in scar tissue above the bone) is around £1,000.

Dental implants have been performed in this country for the past ten years, but it was as long ago as 1965 that a Swedish scientist, Professor

Branemark, made a fortuitous discovery in the tradition of Alexander Fleming's penicillin breakthrough.

He was studying bone-healing in rabbits by implant-

ing titanium chambers in their limbs. Titanium chambers being more expensive than rabbits, he returned to the tested animals after experiments to retrieve his screws, and discovered that it was impossible because the metal had fused to the bone. Realising the dental potential of his discovery he set about developing the implant system — and to this day the Branemark implant is acknowledged as one of the best.

And thus future generations of dentists may find patients paying them a visit, in the hope of being given rabbit teeth.

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The sands have not run out

Anthony Parsons on a peaceful transition in Saudi Arabia

Regimes in Arabia have two defining characteristics: their longevity, and their ability to baffle the West by finding ways round crises which from outside look insurmountable.

Assuming that King Fahd's delegation of authority to Prince Abdullah is permanent, the latter will be fifth in succession since the founder of the Kingdom, Abdel Aziz Ibn Saud, died in November 1953. Previous successions have taken place in far more troubled circumstances, such as when King Faisal succeeded King Saud at the height of pan-Arab republicanism (Nasserism) in 1964, or when King Faisal was murdered by a member of the family in 1975. On both occasions, family solidarity weathered the storm. There is no reason why the same should not be the case today.

A smooth transition in Saudi Arabia is as important to the West as it ever was. The end of the Cold War has made little difference. The Arabian peninsula still contains a substantial proportion of the world's oil reserves. Anarchy or radical change in Saudi Arabia would have an immediate impact on the stability of the smaller states, from Kuwait to Oman. Strategically, Saudi Arabia lies between the area of the Arab-Israeli dispute, now at a delicate stage, and the potentially menacing states to the East, namely Saddam Hussein's Iraq and the Shia Muslim theocracy of Iran. The key role of Saudi Arabia in operation Desert Storm five years ago is fresh in our minds, and the mullahs in Tehran have been, to say the least, on uneasy terms with the fundamentalist Sunni regime in Riyadh since the fall of the Shah in 1979.

Many commentators have recently predicted trouble for the monarchical regimes in the peninsula. But in my view, the ruling families in Saudi Arabia and the Gulf states are under less external pressure than at any time since the 1950s. They survived with difficulty the tempest of the socialist, republican, anti-imperialist Arab nationalism which swept away the Egyptian and Iraqi monarchs in the 1950s and which destabilised the whole region until it died with the catastrophic defeat of Arab arms at the hands of the Israelis in June 1967.

Thereafter, Arab public opinion was inflamed by the Palestine problem under the leadership of the PLO, and regimes such as Saudi Arabia which maintained close relations with the West had to stay close to an Arab consensus. In fact, by the 1980s Saudi Arabia had taken the lead in formulating Arab policy on this question. Then, throughout most of the 1980s, Saudi Arabia and the Gulf States were dangerously close to the longest and bloodiest interstate war since 1945, the Iran-Iraq conflict launched by Saddam's invasion of south-west Iran in 1980. There is little doubt that without the help of oil-rich Arab states, Iraq would have been beaten, rather than forcing a draw.

In 1990, the underlying truth was at last revealed. The threat of territorial aggression against Saudi Arabia and the Gulf, as opposed to subversion, came not from revolutionary Iran, but from sister Iraq. Few people doubt that after gobbling up Kuwait, Saddam would have gone on to dominate Saudi Arabia through a permanent threat of invasion, a threat which he would not have hesitated to implement had he been allowed to get away with his Kuwaiti adventure.

Today all those threats have subsided. Iraq has been neutralised by Desert Storm and the continuing UN sanctions. The revolutionary fire is dying down in Iraq, although there are still ardent spirits who would be glad to stir up trouble among the Shia communities on the Arab shore of the Gulf. However, the mullahs have their hands full with economic recovery, and I do not believe that they have territorial ambitions in the Arab world.

Pan-Arabism is a dead duck; there is no longer such a thing as an Arab consensus on Palestine as the so-called "peace process" edges forward. In any case, Saudi Arabia is widely recognised as a leading player in the Arab League, and it is many years since any but maverick regimes publicly criticised Saudi policy. Before 1990, American support for Saudi integrity had to be kept "over the horizon" because of wider Arab sensitivity about Washington's relationship with Israel. Saddam's naked aggression against a sister Arab state changed that.

What threat there may be to stability comes from within. Growing populations and the increasing complexity of government have eroded the direct access between rulers and ruled which used to be a partial substitute for democracy. Declining oil prices and the costs of the Gulf War have made it increasingly difficult to maintain expensive social and economic infrastructures such as free education, health services and subsidised housing, without resort to significant taxation. Education and travel are heightening political aspirations among the younger generation.

These factors could well combine to generate strong pressure for changes to a system of government which seems to have more to do with the 18th than the 20th century. If the peninsula were an oasis of autocracy in a sea of established democracies, such pressure could become irresistible; but it is not. Anyone seeking radical change in Saudi Arabia and the Gulf has only to look at the dire nature of neighbouring alternatives to wonder whether it would not be better to leave well alone — or at most to seek gradual rather than violent change.

Sir Anthony is a Middle East specialist and former Ambassador to Tehran.



Not so very pastoral

Many a rural scene masks suffering and poverty as grim as any city's

Here we go! The new year barely begun, and already the bile is rising nicely. Never mind "Bishop slams Jackson" and "Portillo slams Nicholson"; let us start 1996 by considering "Aga Saga Queen slams Cotswold village". Which tabloid headline chronicles a magnificently silly conflict between the novelist Joanna Trollope and the unremarkable settlement of Aston Magna, Gloucestershire.

Ms Trollope — with, as she shall see, the most humane of intentions described the village as "a truly dismal place", with problems in common with Manchester's Moss Side. Of course she meant to be provocative; if you want to wake up an audience of 30 in *Stow-on-the-Wold*, all experts agree, provocation is the quickest way to do it. Her remarks were made seven weeks ago in a speech on behalf of the Gloucestershire Community Foundation; they caused a small, local stir for all of five minutes. Rural umbrage travels slowly but surely: within a week or two the tabloid headline appeared, and now the incident has been given a fresh lease of life by the shootings in Moss Side at the weekend, forming as they do a nice contrast with the starry-eyed return of the intelligentsia from their idyllic Christmas in Much-Wittering-in-the-Saeb.

So for yesterday's *Daily Telegraph*, an Aston Magna parish councillor and a chap from the Gloucestershire Police were wheeled out to damn Joanna Trollope again. They even found a Methodist minister in Moss Side to get huffy at the comparison, saying "the communities are very different and it is difficult to find any parallels".

Which is (sorry, Minister) bunkum. Of course there are parallels between urban poverty and the rural kind. A nice view does not neutralise debt and despair, nor prevent you being old and cold, young and hopeless, or afraid of your violent husband. Perhaps it just takes a middle-aged literary lady to admit it. A novelist, after all, is a professional people-watcher and not a politician; Joanna Trollope has nothing to gain or lose by telling the truth, and so feels no need to exercise craven diplomacy or even the sort of creaking political correctness so prevalent in *The Archers*. Therefore she is free to say, in terms as strong as it takes, that deprivation, sadness, loneliness and sin exist in the rolling countryside as well as the teeming city.

After all, it was another novelist, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, who had Sherlock Holmes observe that "the lowest and vilest alleys of London do not present a more dreadful record of sin than does the smiling and beautiful countryside". He was talking about domestic crime: the unseen cruelties in the remote house and the lack of neighbours to intervene (today, after the West affair, he would have to admit that a city street is no longer much protected). Joanna Trollope, on the platform of a charity foundation, was drawing attention to the rural incidence of poverty, unemployment, poor housing, bad health, lone parenthood and the temptation to crime and drugs (Cirencester, for all its prettiness, has a teenage drug problem). She said, and should not regret saying, that it is cruel and silly for outsiders and weekenders and insulated parvenus to think that "the country" is somehow magically protected from these things. She also said that it is the duty of the prosperous country-dweller to deploy "money, effort, and thoughtful care" on the neighbourhood.

Here is an old-fashioned kind of truthfulness: a level gaze which does not avert itself from the scruffy hopelessness of those council estates pushed to the edge of villages, from the decline of village shops and transport, the dearth of employment to replace traditional farming and "un-economic" small-town manufacturing. It is not a patronising eye, but a clear one which acknowledges the despair of young people whose chance of a home is still, even in recession, being snatched away by weekend cottage prices. It is not unreasonable to see both insult and injury when London weekenders come down for new year with their cars stacked high from Waitrose on the King's Road. To acknowledge rural problems is not to belittle villagers, but to take their side.

Which, traditionally, the rural probos have seen as their natural job. There have, admittedly, been high-handed landowners who oppressed their tenants and resisted innovation and growth; but there is also a plentiful if unsung band who have run housing associations, given them land, encouraged jobs, defended traditional trades and lobbied for services. One of the problems of the inner cities, indeed, is the lack of such a loyal middle class: a *Brixton* boy who makes good (like John Major) does not feel it natural to stay in Brixton and fight for it; he goes off somewhere nicer. Say what you like about the old Lord and Lady Bountiful, they stuck around.

Indeed, one of the healthy things about village life — and the reason that even the poorest countryside is not actually as bad as Moss Side or St Paul's — is what has been called its "natural democracy". Bob Holman, the maverick social scientist who put himself where his mouth was and moved to live in the run-down Glasgow satellite town of Easterhouses, recently wrote that whether in town or country, it is a Christian duty for the middle class not only to support the poor in principle, but to live near them. Things, he says, would be better if we did not hide in executive estates or affluent enclaves, but came geographically closer to the poor. Our sheer talent for fussing would then guarantee better schooling, policing, transport and medical services for all; community of interests would produce Mr Major's famous "nation at ease with itself".

In some villages, this happens: people tolerate one another's weaknesses and exploit one another's strengths. The big house and the small ones can fight side by side for the school, the pub, the hall, the local hobby; meanwhile the rich man in his castle has to be civil to the poor man at his gate, because otherwise the next time his tiles blow off or his moles need catching he won't get help for weeks. The mother-and-toddler group provides a lifeline for the single girl living higgler-muggler with her parents and her illegitimate baby, but

also for the commuter's lonely wife with far more money but just as great a need for friends and baby playmates.

In such communities crime is often nipped in the bud by public pressure, in just the way Sherlock Holmes said it would in the "vile alleys" of Victorian London. Admittedly such pressure can lead to problems like the Harlestone vigilantes, who were jailed for detaining a suspected motorbike thief; but on balance that is probably better than the terrified urban habit of turning a blind eye. One of the most alarming things about the growing suburbanisation of the countryside is that commuter villages are now spawning private "executive" estates which do not communicate with their council or traditional neighbours. In such a village, a few years ago, a young mother died unnoticed, and her child starved.

It may often be scruffy, and sometimes inbred, but the very stagnation of traditional rural life has its advantages. There is one small East Anglian town, an unemployment black-spot, which nonetheless has a lower incidence of cruelty to children than any parallel urban community. Why? Because there is always a forceful grandmother or aunt to interfere. East Anglia is rich in single mothers — thanks to the American Air Force — and the story has it that a well-meant but ill-informed charity set up a "drop-in centre" for them. Nobody dropped in. The girls were all round at their mothers' or their nans', and took exception to being classified as a problem.

Such flashes of community spirit are to be cherished, whether in Essex or Orkney; cities could learn from them. Should have learnt from them years ago, instead of pulling down neighbourly streets to build tower blocks. Town planners could also reflect how much lower the rate of delinquency seems to be when children have access to wide green spaces in which they can play. Education planners could look at village schools and admit that, for young children at least, small is very beautiful.

But none of these glories of rural life need blind us to the truth of what Joanna Trollope said: that human beings in the countryside often suffer, albeit more quietly, as much as those in cities. A beautiful backdrop does not guarantee a good life, nor the safe and enlightened upbringing of children. It is almost too obvious to say. Only the row proves that someone had to say it.

Their island pride

Magnus Linklater watches a titanic struggle in Orkney

The crowds who saw in the new year beneath the great sandstone Cathedral of St Magnus in Orkney were in boisterous mood. Most clutched bottles of whisky which they were cheerfully ready to share, despite a bitter north-west wind, they lingered on Broad Street long after the pipe band had given up, exchanging kisses and drams with equal enthusiasm; there were signs that a long night of hard drinking lay ahead. Meanwhile, Kirkwall, the island capital, looked like a town under siege: shop-fronts boarded up, doorways protected by wooden beams, alleyways blocked off. This was not, however, a protection against mass hooliganism, but a precaution in anticipation of what was to happen later in the day.

No one is quite sure how the tradition of "the Ba" began, but it must be one of the most ancient as well as most ferocious new year sports in Britain, dating back possibly to the struggles for power between the Earls and Bishops of Orkney in the 12th century. At the stroke of 1 o'clock yesterday, a round leather ball was tossed into the assembled crowds waiting at the Mercat Cross, and for hours afterwards a titanic struggle developed, with heaving scrums formed by 200 young men (this is not a game for women) surging through the narrow streets as they attempted to gain possession of the ball. For long minutes they piled up, immobile, against a wall, then suddenly they were off, hurtling in a breakneck scramble down the pavement. It looked frankly terrifying; the crush of bodies against stonework seemed to threaten inevitable death by suffocation. But I saw only one youth dragged from the crowd for first aid.

The town is divided into two — the "uppies", trying to smuggle the ball into their own territory half-way up the town, and the "doodies", aiming to land it in the harbour at the bottom end. It is rough stuff, with bruises and broken ribs routine. But though it is a violent spectacle, it has its subtleties. There are feints and false breakaways to fool the other side, and a series of complex instructions from seasoned players who seem to have some idea about what is happening deep inside the maul. The only bearing any similarity to it is the Eton Wall Game, where you may also never see the ball from start to finish. But that is insipid by comparison.

One can well believe that the Ba goes back to the days when the Vikings introduced it as a game to be played with a human head as the ball. Its start at the foot of St Magnus Cathedral is entirely appropriate, for here is a direct link to the Viking era. Founded in memory of Earl Magnus of Orkney, who was murdered in 1117 by his cousin Hakon, the cathedral was built by Magnus's nephew, Earl Rognvald, one of the great medieval crusaders. It was Rognvald who took a fleet of 15 longships through the Mediterranean to Jerusalem in 1149, and who, on his return, hung his sails to dry on the pillars of the half-completed building. He was a fighter as well as a man of God, and he would have understood the Ba.

At various times, the elders and sheriffs of Kirkwall have attempted to ban it, judging it too uncouth a sport for a civilised city. But the game survived because the tradition was too strong to be broken; and today it is more popular than ever, spawning other Ba's on Christmas Day. It is more than a quaint custom: it is a vigorous expression of Orkney's strong, separate identity.

That separateness has, if anything, been reinforced in recent years. Orkney has always been a self-reliant place, and the Thatcherite notions of private enterprise and resourcefulness have suited it better than more dependent counties on the mainland. It is something of an irony that Margaret Thatcher, who was so committed to the United Kingdom, did more to emphasise a sense of individuality in its far-flung communities than any of her more devolution-inclined predecessors. There has been a steady sense of alienation from central government in Orkney since then. It has not translated into votes for the Scottish nationalists, nor even for the idea of separate status for the islands, but it has certainly undermined the Conservative cause. It would be hard to envisage this constituency ever again supporting a Tory candidate; yet until 1980, when Jo Grimond won it for the Liberals, Orkney and Shetland voted Unionist.

It is a lesson that Labour too would do well to bear in mind. Places like Orkney and the remotest rural communities of Britain are not instinctively in sympathy with new Labour. There is a sense that Tony Blair is every bit as much a prisoner of metropolitan bias as John Major, and if he is to demonstrate that he stands for all of Britain he needs to show that he is aware of its discrete needs, interests, and traditions.

I suggest he head North this time next January, ready to take part in the Ba. He should bring a stout pair of boots, a half-pint of whisky in his back-pocket, and a strong constitution. As this column went to press last night, the game was still in progress, five hours after it began, and just 500 yards from its starting-point.

Dramatic gift

A WELSH drama school has been given more than £300,000 towards new rehearsal rooms by its most famous alumnus, Sir Anthony Hopkins. With the aid of a sizeable grant from the National Lottery, his donation enables the Welsh College of Music and Drama in Cardiff to undertake a £2 million development scheme in the 19th-century building which once housed Lord Bute's grace and favour flats.

Sir Anthony was unavailable yesterday, but the college's principal, Edmond Ffyt, is said to be "over the moon". Hopkins's former tutor, Tony Carter, 67 — who gave

the baddie of *Silence of the Lambs* his music lessons in the 1950s — says the donation sets the new year off on a cracking note.

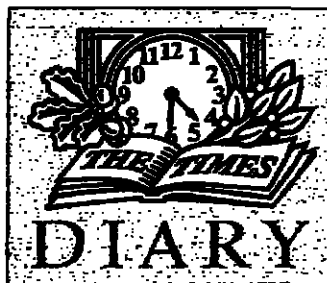
"We've had students here who think they're going off into a different world when they cross the Severn Bridge, and they never return," he said. "But Tony's Welsh roots are very strong. He often comes back and gives masterclasses."

Carter adds that he would never have suspected in the 1950s that the apple-cheeked young Hopkins would become a movie star who can command \$5 million per picture. "He wasn't bad on the piano though, I'll say that for him."

Exaggerated

IF GETTING down to Christmas thank-you letters is a bore, spare a thought for Hughie Green, folks. The former host of *Opportunity Knocks* plans to spend the new year replying to a pile of 700 letters from admirers distressed by exaggerated reports of his death.

The body-blow came in a throw-away line before Christmas in the BBC's comedy series *The Vicar*



of *Dibley*, starring Dawn French. "There hasn't been a bus through the village since Hughie Green died," remarked a joker, prompting a deluge of concerned letters to the Canadian-born septuagenarian and his agent. Mr Green's claspometer has gone nuclear — he is furious that the Corporation has so far refused to correct the slip. "They reckon they're God Almighty," he barked.

Humph

IN CATTY circles, the claws are out for John Major, who was awarded honorary membership of the Cats Protection League after Humphrey, the Downing Street cat, slunk back to No 10 in the summer.

So appalled are some cat-lovers by Major's new feline fellowship

that they have been resigning from the league in protest. They believe government policies have been less than friendly to their furry friends.

"John Major, as Chancellor and subsequently as Prime Minister, has been responsible for economic policies which have caused a lot of hardship, with people losing jobs and houses and having to give up their pets," grumbles one resignee. "And the National Lottery has been bad for animal charities. It was a crass act to give Major this honour. Does he even know Humphrey? I shouldn't think so, he was just cashing in."



"Amazing how quickly a Tory can change colour"

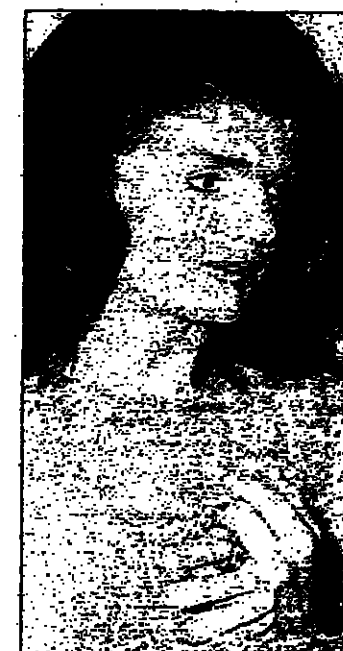
● A vital factor in the success of the New Year's Eve policing of Trafalgar Square can now be revealed. It was the Met's mobile canteen, where bobbies could avail themselves of a steaming cuppa, which for security reasons went under the codename Teapot One.

Still sparkling

AMERICA has been starry-eyed about the late Jackie Kennedy's 40-carat sparkler, a paperweight of a ring given her by Aristotle Onassis after they married in 1968. Along with other effects, including President Kennedy's desk, it is to be auctioned by Sotheby's in New York this spring.

The rock, valued at more than \$300,000, was cut from one of the biggest diamonds ever discovered. But gossip on the glitter circuit suggests that it could soon be under the cutter's knife again.

"The savviest jewellers can't wait to grab it at the auction," explains a gem merchant. "The plan is to cut it down into 40 to 80 little diamonds, mount them in a variety of ways, and market them as Jackie relics at \$2,000 to \$4,000 apiece."



Rocky: Jackie the word. His moustachioed minder, who sports a stetson and Cuban heels, has been an incongruous sight in Zagreb.

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PRINCELY PROBLEMS

Prince Abdullah must reassert leadership at home and abroad

Saudi Arabia is the world's largest oil exporter, one of Britain's biggest export markets and a country whose stability and well-being is a vital Western interest. Since the 1991 Gulf War, however, the kingdom has been going through a difficult period. It has run up a huge budget deficit, partly because of the war's costs but also through profligacy. Relations with Yemen and Gulf neighbours have deteriorated, while suspicion of Saddam Hussein's Iraq remains high.

Saudi Arabia has seen demonstrations in its heartland by fundamentalists, led by dissident clergy, and has been subjected to telling denunciations by exiles and Iranian propaganda. A bomb blast last month that killed four Americans brought the spectre of terrorism suddenly close to home. And King Fahd, the shrewd but cautious ruler for the past 13 years, suffered a debilitating stroke last month that further spurred rumours of family infighting and dynastic uncertainty.

The King's decision, therefore, to entrust the rule of his country temporarily to his half-brother, Crown Prince Abdullah, is both sensible and welcome. Saudi Arabia needs, above all things, to regain self-confidence after a bad attack of jitters. Despite lurid tales of corruption and predictions of the fall of the House of Saud, there is no evidence that the country is in a pre-revolutionary ferment, that its strong religious and tribal traditions are being undermined or that the system, authoritarian and intolerant though it may be, cannot adapt itself gradually to the demands of a more sophisticated society. What is needed, however, is confident leadership, both to confront the social challenges at home and assert the leadership of the Arab world which the country's wealth, oil reserves and influence as the historical heartland of Islam thrusts upon Riyadh.

Two challenges in particular face Saudi Arabia, which the Crown Prince must make

his priorities. The first is economic. For the past five years Saudi Arabia has lived far beyond its means, running up an enormous budget deficit through extravagant hand-outs to the 5,000 royal princes, generous subsidies on utilities and transport, and, it has to be admitted, unnecessarily large purchases of Western weapons. For two years the Government stalled, withholding payment to contractors and to private businesses. This was very damaging to its international business reputation and provoked deep discontent in the burgeoning Saudi merchant class, many of whom suffered big losses. Now the Government has grasped the nettle of economic discipline, and this year's budget, unveiled yesterday, holds down spending while maintaining the recent cuts in subsidies and confirming price rises. That economic discipline must be reinforced by more privatisation of the bloated state sector.

His second priority must be the social malaise that has been fanned by Islamic radicals. One of their targets has been corruption, especially within the Royal Family. Prince Abdullah, an austere and personally devout man, is less likely to incur their opprobrium. He must, however, ensure that the law is applied fairly and equally and that bribery is suppressed. He must move swiftly to bolster the influence of the progressive and quasi-democratic Consultative Council, while trying to cut back the influence of ultra-conservative and obscurantist religious elders.

The West should not be surprised if the Crown Prince — whose formal title as King may soon be confirmed — draws back from his brother's close dependence on the West. What matters is not that the Saudis copy Western ways and policies; the country's strategic importance depends more on stability, continuity and steady adaptation to its international role. For that, the House of Saud must change as swiftly as the country.

EMMA AMONG THE LIBERALS

Further defections are unlikely in the near future

For much of the past year, the Liberal Democrats have been reduced to observer status while the Conservative majority in the Commons disintegrated and Labour hogged the opposition limelight. Now and again, the Lib Dems would win a by-election or perform well in local elections — but their successes were always overshadowed by Tony Blair's.

This year, however, has begun with a dazzling fireworks display. Emma Nicholson's defection to Paddy Ashdown's party could not have been better news for him. It lends credibility to a party that had been all but eclipsed by New Labour. It gives force to the Liberal Democrats' claim to be a respectable repository for the votes of disaffected Tories. And her reasons for making the shift must have rung many a bell with disillusioned supporters of her former party, some of whom may now follow her lead.

Miss Nicholson will not mingle altogether comfortably with the open-toed sandals of the Liberal Democrats. But she has enough in common with the patrician tendency of Menzies Campbell, David Steel and Roy Jenkins. As well as her European federalist beliefs, her humanitarian internationalism — displayed to the full in her defence of the Iraqi Kurds — sits easily with Paddy Ashdown's party than with her former colleagues.

Her decision to join the Liberal Democrats rather than Labour is critical to the centre party's claim to chief opposition status in the West and South-West. Given our electoral system, the Lib Dems have to be a regional party or they are nothing — if

their votes are too evenly spread around the country, they are doomed to come second and third in every constituency but rarely to win a seat.

The territory to which they have now laid a claim runs west of a line from Hastings to Swindon, excluding the big cities. But there was a danger that Labour's ascendancy would put even this area in jeopardy. In most of the Lib Dems' target seats, Labour comes a poor third. Yet if enough former Tory voters switched to Labour at the next election, the sitting Tory candidates could hold on to their seats simply by splitting the opposition. Miss Nicholson's choice of the Liberal Democrats will remind those voters who want to oust the Conservatives in this part of England that they will have to vote tactically for the centre party.

She may also have helped to assuage some doubts in voters' minds about voting Liberal Democrat. The centre party has been putting out conflicting messages lately. Sensing an electoral opportunity with Mr Blair's lurch to the Right, Mr Ashdown has sometimes looked as if he was trying to outflank Labour on the Left. This might have had the merit of picking up votes from radical socialists — but it was not what wavering Conservatives wanted to hear. Miss Nicholson's conversion could reassure them.

So is she likely now to be joined by other former colleagues? Parliamentary arithmetic makes more defections unlikely in the near future. As the Government's majority nears vanishing point, the next two MPs who crossed the floor would be personally blamed for precipitating a general election.

PANTO BRUNO

A chorus of boxing fans surrounds the ring, waving Union Jacks and chanting: Rule Britannia for you know Who — of course, our boy BRUNO. There is nothing like a name in this sporting panto game. So in this first week of pantomime Frank's the hero of our rhyme. Frank's the first true Brit to win A heavyweight title in the ring. As well as playing Mother Goose, Dick Whittington and Puss in Boots, Cinderella, the Sleeping Beauty, And Sinbad the Sailor, dark and fruity. Mystic Puss in Boots stares into her crystal ball, and intones in a spooky purr: Scorpions are brave and proud. They never speak their thoughts aloud. Devious and somewhat wary Like Mitterrand and Archbishop Carey. Sometimes silent as a frozen spigot. Viz, horsey-blinkered Lester Piggott. My prediction for 1996 is that Scorpions will improve their communication skills, know what I mean, Harry? And in addition become more efficient at their work. Chorus gasps Ooooo. Demon Promoter: Efficient? Scorpions Bruno is not efficient enough to punch his way into a packet of Grape Nuts even without his gloves on. He has a plastic chin and a left jab as soft as a powder-puff. He still has not learnt to hang on to his opponent and pinion his arms in order to protect himself when he is in trouble. As for calling himself heavyweight

champion of the world, there are a dozen fighters calling themselves that in the murky alphabet soup of showbiz, avarice and fraud that prize-fighting has become. No fewer than 22 flabby fantasists have been "heavyweight champions of the world" since the last undisputed champion, Mike Tyson, was relieved of his belt by Buster Douglas in Tokyo four years ago. Tyson will murder Bruno, as he did last time, if they eventually get into the ring together this year. You should advise your boy to stick to playing Mother Goose or to celebrity advertising, exhorting us to slosh HP sauce on our chips. Bruno should give up the men in tights. And stick with the nicer men in tights. Chorus boo, "Oh no he shouldn't", "Oh yes, he should." Mystic Puss in Boots: Take a dive. Take a count. Demon Promoter: For happy endings are the motor Of rap, pantomime and astrology. So I predict, without apology, A prosperous year for your boy Frank. With big enough deposits to sink his bank. For the British love a loser chump Such as Eddie the Eagle or Forrest Gump. And if Frank meets Tyson in the ring Our Scorpions Bruno has learnt to sting. Final chorus of riotous boxing fans: For Demon Promoter don't give two hoots. We believe in mystic moggy in Boots. We love Frank, and Frank loves us. This year at last he'll catch the bus. Though the black arts of fisticuffology Are as hard to read as Scorpions of astrology.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Folly of quotas in a 'common pond'

From Mr David B. Thomson

Sir, The letters from Sir Anthony Meyer and from Professor John Shepherd in support of EU fisheries policy (December 20) ignore the EU's role in bringing about the current stock depletion and excess fleet capacity. Both writers continue to put faith in a discredited quota system which could never conserve stocks as presently constructed and administered.

Your editorial on the same day, "Fish and folly", is much nearer the mark in highlighting the insanity of the "discards" — fish thrown back as over quota — directly resulting from the EU quota system. You also rightly attribute blame to the EU subsidy of excess fleets: there would be no excess-fleet problem if only British vessels fished in British fishing grounds.

The creation by the former EEC of a "common pond" for all European vessels (no other group of sea-fishing countries has agreed to such foolishness) has allowed Denmark, France, The Netherlands, Belgium, Germany and Spain to send their fishing fleets into British and Irish waters: that is why we have excess fishing capacity. Already British fishermen lose up to half their fishing boats to make room for European vessels.

The EU quota system is even more iniquitous in its effect on our fisheries. The amount of fish dumped at sea as a direct result of the system (or landed illegally) is believed to be equal to or greater than the official catch. This makes a mockery of the claims that smaller quotas would conserve fish.

The fisheries policy of the EU will result in the destruction of small traditional fishing communities as they lose their fishing livelihood for ever. This contrasts with what is happening in most of the rest of the world — eg, in Japan, New Zealand and the US, where traditional fisheries have their share of and access to marine resources enshrined in law.

The EU is having to renegotiate its fishery agreement with Senegal because it is resulting in the destruction of inshore fisheries. Irish, Scottish and Cornish fishermen must wish their political representatives would do the same.

Yours sincerely,
DAVID B. THOMSON,
Cloverdale, Kimberley Street,
Lissiemouth, Morayshire, Scotland.
December 26.

From Mrs Christina Speight

Sir, The Spanish fishing fleet has almost eliminated fish stocks in its own waters. Now it is not only being allocated a quota in British waters but is also, with the Dutch, allowed to use some of the British quota as well.

British fishermen with a quota of fish caught rather than fish landed could, and would in their own interests, ensure the management of remaining stocks. Landings in Britain are closely supervised by inspectors, but press reports suggest that Spanish inspectors have little control over fish landings in Spain.

In addition, the Danes are taking large quantities of immature North Sea fish to feed to pigs. Meanwhile all countries continue to overfish their quotas under the CFP and to dump much of the surplus, dead, back into the sea.

So far from allowing fishing policy to be determined by majority voting in the Council of Ministers, largely by countries not involved in the problem, the answer lies in repatriating control to the countries bordering the fishing areas. Certainly this involves Britain's withdrawal from the CFP, and this in its turn requires Britain to withdraw from the EU.

This is precisely the policy which the UK Independence Party has been proposing since it was founded. In justice to our British fishermen, and to ensure future fish stocks, it is the only way to proceed.

Yours faithfully,
CHRISTINA SPEIGHT,
20 Ramillies Road, W4.
December 26.

From Mr Mark Hamer

Sir, Sir Anthony Meyer pleads the cause of the European Commission to "champion the general and the long-term interest", pointing to the "folly of attempting to run the EU on the sole basis of inter-governmental co-operation". I wholly disagree.

Left to its own devices, the Fisheries Commission has proved that it will act in favour of some member countries to the detriment of others. Last month it agreed to pay Morocco no less than £350 million for a four-year agreement to permit Community vessels — ie, mainly Spanish — to fish in their waters. Whilst the agreement was being negotiated Spanish vessel-owners were given about £20 million "to tide them over". Such largesse for the alienated British fishing industry (in which I worked for over 30 years) is unheard of.

The vast majority of people in our fishing communities support the Save Britain's Fish campaign, whose objective is to take our country out of the common fisheries policy and bring our 200-mile limit under British control. It can and must be done. Failure to do so will result in the total collapse of our precious British fish stocks for all time.

Yours faithfully,
MARK HAMER,
6 Hazelwood Close,
Thornhill Cleveleys, Lancashire.
December 27.

Institute and the spirit of Auckland

From Mr Peter R. C. Williams

Sir, An uninformed reader of Baroness Chalker's letter of December 22, in response to Mr Derek Ingram and his co-signatories (December 19), might be forgiven for thinking that the Government's role vis à vis the Commonwealth Institute is that of St George riding to the rescue of an innocent victim threatened by hostile forces. In reality, of course, the victim's plight is the direct result of the Government's sharp reduction in its grant.

As a consequence, the number of Commonwealth Institute staff has fallen from 120 in 1987 to 90 in 1991, when the current director-general assumed office, and to 36 today. If the Government's current intentions regarding funding support are put into effect that number could be only 20 by the early summer of 1996. In March the Commonwealth Institute in Scotland is to close, 18 months or so before HMG hosts the next Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting, probably in Edinburgh.

Lady Chalker was a member of the British delegation to the last Common-

wealth summit, held in Auckland last month. There the Prime Minister, along with his Commonwealth colleagues, supported the proposal "that Heads of Government endorse wider knowledge of the Commonwealth as a key strategy for furthering the Commonwealth's objectives". This was oddly at variance with HMG's reported veto of a paragraph in the draft communiqué commending the work of the institute.

Lady Chalker's latest affirmation of government willingness to help the institute is welcome: continuing government support, both political and material, is crucial to its future. But the level of this support has to be more fully commensurate with that clearly required by the spirit of the Auckland communiqué.

Yours etc,
PETER R. C. WILLIAMS
(Deputy Executive Chairman,
Council for Education
in the Commonwealth,
The College of Preceptors,
Coppice Row, Theydon Bois, Essex,
December 28.

Royals at work, at home and abroad

From Mr Tim O'Donovan

Sir, I have carried out a survey of the official engagements carried out by the Royal Family during 1995, as reported in the Court Circular.

	A	B	C	D	E
The Queen	167	51	295	545	106
Duke of Edinburgh	238	141	32	401	232
Queen Mother	28	5	9	42	
Prince of Wales	261	108	103	471	134
Princesses of Wales	32	10	30	62	65
Duke of York	44	29	8	81	21
Princess Edward	51	40	25	116	103
Princess Royal	250	93	84	427	148
Princess Margaret	87	38	8	133	5
Duke of Gloucester	82	35	22	139	46
Duchess of Gloucester	107	31	3	141	20
Duke of Kent	134	49	29	212	76
Duchess of Kent	121	25	11	157	10
Princess Alexandra	100	34	17	151	18

A Official visits, opening ceremonies and other engagements
B Receptions, lunches, dinners and banquets
C Other engagements, including investitures, meetings attended and audiences given
D Total number of engagements in UK
E Total number of engagements on official overseas tours

Yours faithfully,
TIM O'DONOVAN,
Mariners, The Avenue,
Datchet, Berkshire.
December 31.

NHS charges

From Dr Alan Bachman

Sir, I am amazed at the naïveté expressed by Dr Kreeger in his complaint at being charged by a GP colleague for photocopies of a patient's notes (letter, December 28).

The NHS pays us to provide certain core services, and for these we are not allowed to make any additional charge. However, an increasing part of our daily routine is now taken up by time-consuming paperwork and correspondence which is outside these core services.

I estimate that I spend one to two hours every day dealing with requests for information from mortgage companies, holiday insurance schemes, BUPA, solicitors, employers etc. This entails my collating the information from patient records and dictating letters, and then taking up secretarial time with typing the reports and photocopying relevant hospital letters.

Would an accountant, solicitor or bank manager do the same type of work and not charge for it? The Government is forever exhorting GPs to

become more businesslike, and we all have our mortgages to pay.

Yours faithfully,
A. R. BLACKBURN,
Guildwinds Group Practice,
The Oaks Surgery,
Applegarth Avenue,
Guildford, Surrey.

From Dr Anthony J. S. Nicholls

Sir, I do not think there is sufficient information in Dr Kreeger's letter to justify his complaint at being charged for photocopies of a patient's records.

If the patient had been referred by the general practitioner with an inadequate history then Dr Kreeger is entitled to have more information without charge. If the patient came to Dr Kreeger without the GP's knowledge or referral then the GP practice is entitled to charge a reasonable fee for the secretarial and administrative time involved.

Yours faithfully,
ANTHONY J. S. NICHOLLS,
The Pinn Medical Centre,
8 Eastcote Road, Pinner, Middlesex.
December 28.

Stress in anaesthetists

From the President of the Association of Anaesthetists of Great Britain and Ireland

Sir, Dr Simon Wessely ("What if your surgeon's a junkie?", December 19) states that "Of all the medical specialists, anaesthetists have the highest suicide rate". While the rate is unacceptably high, we know of no evidence to support that assertion.

The high suicide rate among all doctors is a cause for major concern, and support for stressed doctors is of paramount importance. Since 1981 this association's pioneering sick-doctor scheme has proved very beneficial and has been initiated by many other schemes.

We have recently set up a working party, with Royal College of Psychiatrists representation, to consider the whole problem of stress among anaesthetists and at the same time to authenticate the data on suicide.

Yours faithfully,
S. MORELL LYONS, President,
Association of Anaesthetists
of Great Britain and Ireland,
9 Bedford Square, WCI.

Too close to the fire

From Mrs Sheila Stevens

Sir, I read with interest in Dr Stuttaford's medical briefing today that the correct medical term for the mortifying of legs caused by sitting too close to the fire is *livedo reticularis*. I think I still prefer the more picturesque term used for this condition in the Glasgow of my childhood — fire tартan.

Yours faithfully,
SHEILA STEVENS,
8 Redhouse Drive, Sonning Common,
Reading, Berkshire.
December 28.

East Sussex housing

From the Chairman of the East Sussex Association of Local Councils

Sir, Jill Parkin, in reporting the debate over additional housing in East Sussex ("Concrete mixers head for Kipling country", Weekend, December 23) is mistaken in believing that there is little opposition to the proposed allocation of the 2,333 new homes to be provided annually in the county between now and 2006.

Local communities under the South Downs have rejected the Lewes District Council draft local plan for that period since it includes proposals to release substantial new greenfield sites for housing in their villages. Their objections are similar to those to the new towns proposed for the same area after 2006.

The parish and town councils represented by this association, along with other bodies in Sussex, have great reservations concerning the processes whereby the figures for these housing allocations are obtained by the Department of the Environment.

In particular we question the validity of using as starting points projections of population and housing change which are based on current demographic and social trends and converting these into housing provision figures without complementary statistical details or evaluation.

We require clear reasoning and reliable statistics from those who advocate such development, neither of which we have found available during the current debate.

Yours faithfully,
A. J. MACGILLIVRAY,
Chairman, East Sussex
Association of Local Councils,
Sussex House,
212 High Street, Lewes, East Sussex.
December 29.

Films that deliver a slap in the face

From Ms Veronica Kish

Sir, The latest James Bond film, *Goldeneye* (review, Arts, November 23), dismayed me, in that a villain yet again has a badly scarred face.

The stereotype that good people are beautiful and bad people ugly is implicated in the teasing and bullying that many children and teenagers suffer because of their appearance. As a health professional working with children disfigured by burns, dog bites, birthmarks and other conditions, I am distressed at the prejudice, in the streets and playground.

Fairy tales are a strong source of this stereotype, with ugly witches, wicked dwarfs, monsters and freaks. Film has supported them: the villain in *Waterworld* lost an eye in battle. *Batman Forever* introduced Two Face, with half his face disfigured, and *The Lion King* named its villain Scar.

Given the incidence of disfigurement, such representations are disturbing. Some 400,000 people in Britain are disfigured, and one school-aged child in 500 has a significant facial deformity.

A villain doesn't always have to look horrid. The beautiful wicked witch of C. S. Lewis's *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* shows this. Our beliefs about appearance are flawed enough, without further impetus to prejudice.

Yours sincerely,
VERONICA KISH,
Changing Faces,
1 & 2 Junction Mews, Paddington, W2.

Who was it from?

From Emeritus Professor W. G. V. Balchin

Sir, The Post Office has done a magnificent job this year in delivering 1.9 billion items of Christmas mail (News in brief, December 23), but it could be even more helpful if it indicated in all cases where and when the items have been posted.

The present franking system is in serious need of an overhaul — an analysis of the 95 items of Christmas mail which we received has revealed that the location of posting was absent or undecipherable in 42 per cent, the date of posting was absent or undecipherable in 40 per cent, and both location and date were absent or undecipherable in 30 per cent.

This lack of information can be quite critical at Christmas when so many friends and relations sign cards with a simple Christmas name, not realising that you might know two Muriels, three Georges and four Lucys. Without local franking one often needs a graphologist to pinpoint the sender.

Yours faithfully,
W. G. V. BALCHIN,
10 Low Wood Rise, Ben Rhydding,
Ilkley, West Yorkshire.
December 24.

Driven to distraction

From Mr R. Compton

Sir, Having paid my car insurance premium, I awaited a slim envelope containing the renewal certificate.

The envelope from my insurers was very large. In addition to the certificate it contained:
a "thank you" letter;
another copy of the policy document (I already have one);
a 58-page "welcome booklet";
a schedule headed "Excesses for young drivers" (despite my wife and I being the only named drivers, and no longer eligible);
a further envelope containing "a specially selected range of additional benefits & services";
a "customer care" form asking for my comments;

an "invitation" to apply for home insurance;
and a shiny laminated card telling me what to do if I crash.

I do wonder how much lower my premium could have been if I had just received the renewal certificate.

Yours faithfully,
ROGER COMPTON,
Woodbridge, Charlwood Road,
Hookwood, Horley, Surrey.

Not to be copied

From Mr Roy Dean

Sir, It is noticeable in television crime series that the police so seldom bother to lock their cars when they get out. Even Inspector Morse sets an occasionally bad example.

Yours faithfully,
ROY DEAN,
14 Blyth Road, Bromley, Kent.

As God intended?

From Mr Chandra P. de Fonseka

Sir, Even if St Matthew appeared nude before God (report and photograph, December 28) what reason could there be for him being depicted in that state before Man?

Yours faithfully,
C. P. DE FONSEKA,
10 Glenelven Road,
Whitchurch, Bristol, Avon.

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 0171-782-5046.

OBITUARIES

HEINER MÜLLER

Heiner Müller, dramatist, died of cancer on December 30 aged 66. He was born on January 9, 1929.

A DRAMATIST, director and poet, Heiner Müller was an outstanding challenger to the twin orthodoxies of Marxist and bourgeois theatrical and intellectual traditions in Germany. A hulk of a man whose trade marks were a fat, pungent cigar, unwashed straggling hair and thick spectacles, Müller was one of the great rule-breakers in a country obsessed by rules.

Even before the fall of the Berlin Wall, and with many of his plays banned from the East German stage, he somehow managed to elicit from the authorities a pass enabling him to dine and drink with socialites and publishers in West Berlin and then return, swaying and perorating on the senselessness of history, across the silent guarded border in the middle of the night, back to his one room flat in the proletarian Hellersdorf high-rise district of East Berlin.

A student of Bertolt Brecht's at the Berliner Ensemble in the 1950s, Müller turned his teacher's techniques against their originator. While every bit as harsh as Brecht in his critique of capitalism, he disagreed with the playwright's residual belief in communism as a more humane system and condemned his mentor's refusal publicly to disavow Stalin.

Throughout Müller's writing runs an awareness of treachery repeating itself in great matters and small throughout German history. He charted his own fascination with the phenomenon by describing how he feigned sleep as a four-year-old in 1933 when his father, a Social Democrat in Saxony, was hauled off to an internment camp by the Nazis. "That was my first treason," he later remarked. But his approach to power was always playful — he continued to live in the East which, in his hermetic



containment and delusional aspects he found to be "like the Prussia of Kleist or the England of Shakespeare", and he even accepted the National Prize for Literature, despite the fact that many of the works for which it was granted were banned.

His work covers an extraordinary range of styles. His first play *Der Lohndrucker* (The Man Who Kept Down Wages) was a Brechtian meditation on forms of exploitation, based on the story of Hans Garbe, an East German Stakhanovite hero who risks his life to keep the factory furnaces going and meet the party's production targets. It was immed-

ately taken off stage by the censor as politically inexpedient and not performed in the East until 1988.

The deconstruction of heroism was to be a persistent theme in Müller's oeuvre. By the early 1960s, he had departed from strict Brechtian theory and concentrated instead on the mythological treatments of history like *Germania Tod in Berlin* (Germania: Death in Berlin) which sought to place the 1953 workers' uprising in a pan-German context and restored the use of monologue to the modern German stage.

The most intricate and famous of his plays was the 1977

Hamletmaschine (Hamlet Machine), one of only a few of his works performed in Britain. It interweaves Shakespeare with exegeses on Baader-Meinhof terrorism, the murder of Sharon Tate and the quelling of the Hungarian uprising. Intended to be performed alongside Müller's translation of *Hamlet*, the play caused a legal battle when Michael Hamburger, Germany's foremost modern Shakespeare translator, claimed that Müller had plagiarised his work. Müller won his case when his lawyer Gregor Gysi (now a post-Communist politician) managed to convince the court that his client was genius enough to have translated the work from scratch in two months.

The last production of the play at the Deutsches Theater in East Berlin in 1989 lasted nine hours and was playing when the Berlin Wall fell. Müller rewrote sections of it nightly to reflect events happening a few streets away.

After the collapse of the regime, it was revealed that Müller had periodically provided information to the Stasi secret police. Unperturbed at the public scandal which ensued, he claimed to have done it "for reasons of dramaturgy — to get inside the minds of the main actors in our state". Callow as this evocation of the post-modernist get-out clause sounds, it was given a certain credibility when it emerged that the Stasi had deemed his statements "without analytical value", being unable to understand their informant's hand-writing, syntax or stream of consciousness.

Although Müller's plays were too abstruse to be widely known, his ideas were accessible to a wider public through his secondary, post-1989 career as enfant terrible, called in by mischievous chat-show producers to deflate the great and good and their hopes for the new united Germany. On the first anniversary of German unity he surpassed himself in both bad behaviour and theatrical

deconstruction of the television medium by sitting alongside ex-Chancellor Helmut Schmidt and other worthies on a podium for the best part of an hour: he said nothing, drinking noisily from a bottle of Scotch and uttering not a word. "Please," implored the host, "tell us what you think about history." "What intellectuals call history has never been more than hard work to the lower orders," replied Müller tartly. "The only national identity in Germany is the mark," was another of his *bon mots* to gain national popularity. As head of the eastern branch of the German Academy of Arts, he was a robust defender of writers whom he believed had been unfairly condemned by their Western counterparts.

Diagnosed as suffering from terminal cancer in 1991, Müller had part of his oesophagus removed but continued to work, drink and smoke with gusto. His final production *Zement* (Cement) was a masterful reworking of Soviet revolutionary drama in the manner of classical drama. Staged in a condemned factory in the dying industrial zone of eastern Berlin, it was accessible only with great effort, the auditorium was freezing cold and the audience had to be supplied with vodka and blankets to prevent hypothermia. By turns bizarre, confusing and touching, it was Müller's characteristic farewell to German audiences.

The last three years of his life were spent back at the Berliner Ensemble where the ailing company had called in a "five-pack" of Germany's top directors to restore its fortunes. Müller was given full control last year after a bitter power-struggle with Peter Zadek, the west German director, who disapproved of his concentration on violent themes. His autobiography *War Without Battle* was published in 1992.

Müller was married three times. He is survived by his third wife, Brigitte Mayer, and their son.

LORD COLLISON

Lord Collison, CBE, former General Secretary of the National Union of Agricultural Workers and chairman of the Supplementary Benefits Commission, 1969-75, died on December 29 aged 86. He was born on May 10, 1909.



HAROLD COLLISON was an old-style trade unionist who had an increasing impact on Labour politics through his long, 17-year service on the TUC General Council. For 12 years he was chairman of its social insurance and industrial welfare committees and, as such, caught the eye of Richard Crossman who at the time was deeply involved with his 1957 national superannuation plan.

More than a decade later it fell to Crossman, as Secretary of State for Social Services, to offer him the post of chairman of the Supplementary Benefits Commission (the old National Assistance Board). Typically described by his patron as "a great, big, tall, gangling man, a real slow-working-class chap", Collison was, in fact, a good deal more impressive than that. Created a life peer by Harold Wilson in December 1964, he had earlier that year been elected chairman of the TUC and, as a Labour peer, presided over the 1965 Brighton Congress — the first member of the House of Lords ever to do so.

The National Union of Agricultural Workers had always been part of the Labour leadership's Praetorian Guard — and, though never one of the major unions, was regularly represented on the party's National Executive Committee. Its strength lay among the farm workers of East Anglia, where in the 1950s it usually got a couple of its members returned to Parliament.

Harold Francis Collison, however, did not come from there but from Gloucestershire — though he started his career as a clerk in a Port of London stevedoring firm. But he soon gave that up and moved back to Gloucestershire where he got a job first as a general farm hand before switching to working on a poultry farm.

He helped to form the Stroud and District branch of the NUAW, later becoming organiser for the counties of Gloucestershire and Wiltshire. In 1946 he joined the head office staff in London, being elected General Secretary in 1953 — at a time when the union still had very much in its sights the abolition of the "tied cottage" system (something it had failed to obtain even from Aneurin Bevan during his time in charge of the Attlee Government's housing programme).

It was, however, a great source of pride to Collison that

he lived long enough to see farm workers afforded protection for their homes — even when they lost their jobs — under the 1977 Agricultural Rent Act.

By then, of course, he qualified very much as an elder statesman — having survived four years of serving a Tory Government as chairman of the Supplementary Benefits Commission between 1970 and 1974. In fact, Collison got on well with Crossman's successor, Sir Keith Joseph, and when he did finally retire in 1975, it was to a Labour Social Services Secretary, Barbara Castle, that he tendered his resignation. Free of the responsibilities of the Commission, he was able to devote himself much more fully to the business of the House of Lords — where he formed a useful duo on agricultural issues with Lord John Mackie, the wealthy farmer and Labour supporter whom James Callaghan appointed chairman of the Forestry Commission. Collison was a very popular member of the Upper House and, at least until ill-health overtook him, an assiduous attender.

But then, in a sense, he had always been a ready-made recruit to the stage army of the great and the good. Even in his days as a union general secretary he was a natural choice for membership of government committees and royal commissions — serving on the Pilkington Committee on Broadcasting which came down heavily against ITV in 1962, the Donovan Royal Commission on Trade Unions and Employers' Associations whose recommendations predated the 1969 White Paper *In Place of Strife* and of the rolling Council on Tribunals, which gave him as useful an apprenticeship as he could have had for his later work with the Supplementary Benefits Commission. It was in recognition of these activities that he was appointed CBE by a Tory Government in 1961.

Collison married in 1946. Kate Hanks who survives him. There were no children.

JAMES HEPBURN



James Hepburn, DFC, tap dancer and airman, died on December 15 aged 88. He was born on November 3, 1907.

WITTY and debonair but a stout believer in Labour principles, James Geoffrey Cutcliffe Hepburn was a central figure in Hampstead's social and socialist scene. From an early age he moved in bohemian circles, acquainted through his mother, the poet Anna Wickham, with such literary and artistic figures as D.H. Lawrence, Edith Sitwell, David Bomberg and Malcolm Lowry — he was to remain a lifelong friend of the last.

His mother was equally at home in a political environment and a solid supporter of the suffragist movement. One of Hepburn's earliest memories was of a garden party when he and two other small boys paraded the lawn, each holding a placard. The first read "votes", the second "for" and the third "women".

Hepburn's mother was a fiercely unconventional woman. Her husband, Patrick Hepburn, was a lawyer, though in his spare time he studied the planet Saturn on which he became a world authority and learnt Hebrew in order to translate the Psalms. In 1919 the family moved to a tall Victorian house on Parliament Hill — a spacious, four-storey building in which the bathroom doubled up as an aviary and the

windows looked out over Hampstead Heath.

Anna Wickham, however, could never squeeze herself into the role of model housewife which her husband expected of her and, when her youngest son died of scarlet fever, she left her husband for six months and went to Paris taking her teenage son Jim with her. Here, in *salon* society, he further widened his acquaintance, meeting such figures as Ezra Pound, Sylvia Beach, Djuna Barnes and Nina Hammett. The portrait which the latter painted of him shows the thoughtful face of the suave young man who at that time played chess with Aleister Crowley and beat him, and coolly accepted the fact that men should fight duels over his mother.

Hepburn was educated at University College School, Hampstead, but left at the age of 17 to work for the London, Midland and Scottish railway company. He had a stammer, and in the evenings his mother taught him to sing in an attempt to cure it; he also attended a nearby drama school. It was by chance that Hepburn then stumbled into a profession, becoming a repertory actor and singing for a year with Stanley Holloway in *Hit the Deck*.

His mother's friend Augustus John then introduced him to the impresario C.B. Cochran and Hepburn was invited to accompany Noel Coward as his understudy in the American tour of *This Year of Grace*. In New York Hepburn studied tap dancing. Fred Astaire had developed new tap routines, using not just snappy foot rhythms but fast ballroom movements as well. It was this method of dancing which Hepburn was to adopt and take back with him to England where he taught them to his younger brother John. Together they made a double act, called first the Two Madisons and later the Hepburn Brothers.

Together they travelled the theatres of England and the Continent, happy to dance at any venue, however lowly. On their last appearance they

were bottom of the bill, while Vera Lynn was at the top.

When war broke out Hepburn joined the RAF. He had always been fascinated by aircraft and, as a child playing with a typewriter for the first time, had made his own magazine about aeroplanes. He served first as a tailgunner but, perhaps inheriting something of his father's interest in astronomy, became a navigator. Flying seemed to come naturally to him and once, with 216 Squadron in North Africa, he successfully made a forced landing in the middle of a desert sandstorm. In 1943 he was awarded the DFC.

In 1948 Hepburn left the RAF to form a company called Eagle Aviation, pioneering the idea of forest aviation. He operated throughout the Berlin airlift, flying 28 round trips in ten days. He also became the second man ever to fly around the world from east to west. But having married in 1950 Hepburn decided that family life was incompatible with operational flying. He joined the RAF again as an air traffic controller and stayed in this role from 1951 until 1960.

In the 1960s Hepburn joined the Civil Service, working for the Ministry of Defence. The nature of his job remained a closely guarded secret. Even his wife, familiar with government operations at Blenheim Park, did not know precisely what he did, though speculation was that he was involved in nuclear operations.

On retiring in 1977, Hepburn, with characteristic energy and commitment to democratic principle took a job in Heal's bedding factory and joined the Hampstead Labour Party. He also became an enthusiastic private brewer of beer, swilling down his pints to denunciations of the big breweries. He remained all his life a man of modest ambition, though his last wish, he used to say, was not to die under a Tory government.

He is survived by his wife Margaret, by a daughter, two stepdaughters and his brother, John with whom he used to dance.

CHARLES FLETCHER

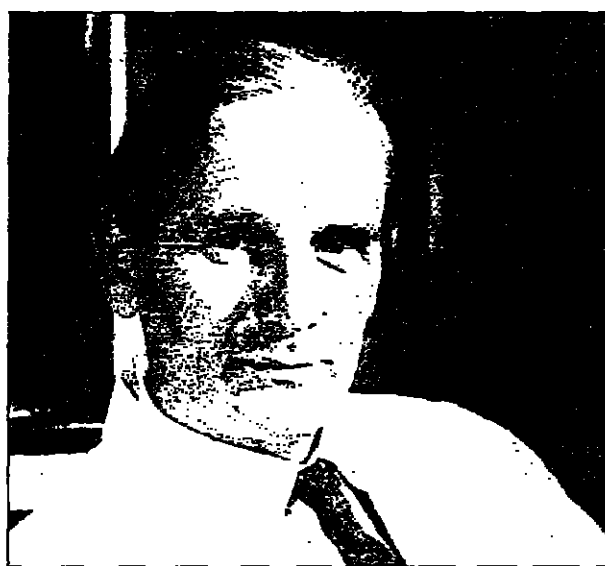
Charles Fletcher, CBE, Professor of Clinical Epidemiology, London University, 1973-76, died on December 5 aged 84. He was born on June 5, 1911.

CHARLES FLETCHER was best known to the public as a pioneer in the use of television as a means of medical education. In 1949, when he first suggested that doctors should explain to patients the causes of their illnesses, he stirred up a storm of protest among conservative medical circles. But Fletcher continued to campaign and in 1958, under his aegis, the BBC began a series of television programmes entitled *Your Life in Their Hands*, which included footage of operations. In its leading articles, *The British Medical Journal* attacked this series vituperatively for several weeks in succession, arguing that giving patients information about disease was harmful and could lead to abuse.

It was a brave step that Fletcher took, and the ethical problems involved were complex, but he — a man of proven principle, with a sound medical knowledge, a pleasing on-screen personality and an attractive voice — succeeded where many others might have failed. *Your Life in Their Hands* was one of the most successful medical programmes ever produced and Fletcher continued to be medical adviser to the BBC from 1961 to 1972.

Charles Montague Fletcher had been innovative throughout his life. Having studied medicine at Trinity College, Cambridge — where he took first-class honours in both Part I and Part II of the Tripos — he worked as a Nuffield Research Fellow under Professor Leslie Witts at Oxford. It was here that he was to become the first doctor to administer penicillin to a human being.

Fletcher also pioneered the development of quantification of the chest radiographic appearances of the miners' disease, pneumoconiosis. After leaving Oxford, he went to



Cardiff as the director of the Pneumoconiosis Unit. It was here that he became aware of "observer error" — the widely different interpretation of the same chest radiograph by different observers — and, in order to introduce better standardisation, he designed a semi-quantitative scoring system (later to be extended by his colleague John Gilson) which is now accepted worldwide.

It was while in Cardiff that Fletcher became interested in the effects of inhaled particles on the lung and the natural history of chest disease and, perhaps more importantly, it was here that he found his commitment to epidemiology (at a time when this methodology was barely accepted by the academic medical fraternity) in order to study disease before the symptoms surfaced. His observations on miners contributed in a major way to the successful prevention of this form of pneumoconiosis. In recognition of this work he was appointed CBE in 1952.

Fletcher, however, longed for more direct clinical involvement in his research, and in 1952 he joined the Royal Postgraduate Medical School at the Hammersmith Hospital. Tuberculosis had just been conquered by the development of antituberculous chemotherapy, so Fletcher turned his mind to the other most com-

mon chest diseases — chronic bronchitis and emphysema. He developed various new epidemiological methods, including the study of early disease in prospective cases, and spent the next twenty years of his life unravelling the natural history of these afflictions.

Working with a number of other eminent scientists, Fletcher demonstrated conclusively the direct relationship between cigarette smoking and chronic bronchitis and emphysema and it was he who was largely responsible for drafting the first and the second Royal College of Physicians reports in 1962 and 1971 to alert the public to the hazards of smoking.

Fletcher was a founder member of Action on Smoking and Health and ardently campaigned against smoking. He himself had learnt to knit during the war and recommended knitting as an occupation for those who found it hard to give up cigarettes. Each of his grandchildren had a jersey made by him. In retirement he also learnt to do tapestry and he enjoyed keeping bees in the small orchard where he lived on the Isle of Wight, and making his own bread, wine and beer. He is survived by his wife Louisa, and their three children.

ON THIS DAY

January 2, 1968

Cecil Day Lewis (1904-72) was the oldest of the trio, Auden, Spender and Day Lewis — the writers of the "new poetry" in the early 30s. He achieved a second reputation, under the pseudonym of Nicholas Blake, as a writer of detective stories of considerable merit.

moving, something like Aberfan or perhaps the day when Prince Charles becomes Prince of Wales, there might be an opportunity or a desire to produce a poem on such a theme. Personally I shall just go on writing poetry, that's what a poet should do.

He has already written in celebration of one royal event. To commemorate the birth of Prince Andrew in 1960 he wrote an ode which was set to music by Sir Arthur Bliss and which ended with the lines:

You princely baby, you pretty dear,
For you we bring
The birthday honours of the quickening year.
Mr Day Lewis did not know he was being

considered for the appointment until he had a letter from the Prime Minister on December 14 asking if his name could be put forward. He replied that he would be delighted.

"I was out when the next letter came from Mr. [sic] saying that I had been chosen," Mr Day Lewis said. "It meant a lot of family giggling over Christmas. My children — Tamsin, she's 14, and Daniel, who is 10 — have been teasing me..."

By STEPHEN JESSEL
Cecil Day Lewis, whose appointment as Poet Laureate in succession to the late John Masefield was announced last night, was once described by *The Times Literary Supplement* as "the personally favoured poet, the specially delighted-in poet of the few, but even readers whose immediate response to him is rather hesitant do, in all likelihood, feel for him something more than a grudging admiration..."

His critics have sometimes objected that he lacks the charisma that Yeats, Graves and Auden have displayed and that his standpoint and personality are not so clearly defined in the public mind that what he says commands instant and respectful public attention.

But his poetic skill, his sincerity, his earnest, and his rare but rarely questioned, and his poetry often displays, in the view of many critics, a sharpness and conviction that recall the "committed" days of the 1930s and the money-for-Spain movements...

Church news

Appointments

The Rev Mary Judson, Assistant Curate, Chester-le-Street, to be Priest-in-charge, Bishopwearmouth St Mark, Millfield (Durham).
The Rev Paul Langham, Chaplain and Fellow, St Catherine's College, Cambridge, to be Vicar, Combe Down w Monkton Combe and South Stoke (Bath and Wells).

The Rev Pat Lawless, Curate (NSM), Christ Church, Frome, to be Curate (NSM), Mells w Vobster w Buckland Dinham, Elm, Whitley and Chantry (Bath and Wells).
The Rev Rob Marshall: formerly Communications Officer for the diocese of London: to be media adviser (part-time) to the Archbishop of York.
The Rev Dr Charles Miller, Priest-in-charge, New Marston (Oxford): has been ap-

pointed the Michael and Joan Ramsey Professor of Historical and Ascetical Theology, Nashotah House, Wisconsin, diocese Milwaukee, USA.

The Rev Mark Millward, Vicar, Pennywell St Thomas w Grindon St Oswald: to be whole-time Church of England Chaplain to the City Hospitals, Sunderland (NHS Trust) (Durham).
The Rev Mark Oakley, Assistant Curate at St John's Wood: to be Chaplain to the Bishop of London (London).

The Rev Kevin Partington, Curate, All Saints, Satterhebble, Halifax: to be Vicar, All Saints, Pontefract (Wakefield).

The Rev Philip Swindells, Rector, Cliphill: to be also Priest-in-charge, Shillington (St Albans).

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